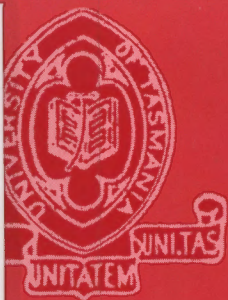


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celebrating 100 years

State of the Union

Tasmania University Union 1899–1999



Alison Alexander

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Left: In 1954 some sections of the University had moved to Sandy Bay and some were still on the Domain, and the University Council showed no sign of more activity. Students protested outside a University Council meeting. Photograph courtesy of the *Mercury*.

Front cover: Student parade ready to start, 1938. Students send up Hitler, Mussolini and other contemporary figures; 'Ericists' is a reference to Eric Ogilvie, Attorney General. One young man daringly wears floral knickers, and students play on the trombone, tuba, trumpet and drum. Photograph courtesy of the *Mercury*.

State of the Union

Tasmania University Union 1899-1999

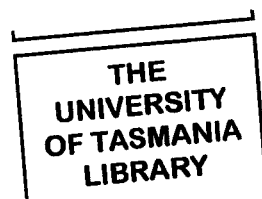
by Alison Alexander



Celebrating 100 years

Tasmania University Union

Dedicated to all members of the Tasmania University Union



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Contents

Foreword	iv
Acknowledgements	v
The Tasmania University Union logo	vi
The beginning of the Union, 1899–1914	1
Early Challenges, 1914–1930	5
The Union flexes its muscles, 1931–1939	9
The Second World War, 1939–1945	17
The University is invaded by ex-servicemen, 1945–1949	21
The Lull before the Storm, 1950–1954	25
‘This sorry business’: the Royal Commission and the Orr Case, 1954–1959	27
‘Please Don’t Conform’: the growth of dissent, 1959–1965	33
The heyday of activism, 1966–1972	39
‘It all costs money that the SRC should save’, 1973–1979	51
All sorts of activity, 1980–1989	63
Diversification and development, 1990–1998	79
Bibliography	91
Chapter references	92
Sources of photos	93
Index	94

Foreword

Welcome to *State of the Union*, a pictorial history of the Tasmania University Union. This book is one of many projects initiated by the Union's centenary committee, and congratulations must go to the committee's chair, Deidre Parker, and other members for their efforts in reclaiming our past, and looking to the future.

The past is often sadly misplaced in our headlong rush into tomorrow. Yet history is the key to understanding our present, and the foundation upon which we will take our next steps forward. Alison Alexander has done a great service to Union members, and the wider community, in bringing to life the rich and varied history of one of the most progressive student organisations in the nation. I would also like to thank two of the Union's key supporters in 1999: Richard Flanagan, former President and Centenary Patron of the Union; and Professor Don McNicol, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

It is a sad irony that the Union celebrates a centenary of service to its members in the same year that the Federal Government seeks to sabotage this and other student organisations across the country.

The folly of the Federal anti-student policy can be seen here whilst reflecting on the collected memories, writings and artifacts of the past century. It has been a long journey from the original small tin shed to our current organisation of over 9,000 members, twenty-one Student Representative Council officers, and more than 60 staff. Looking back, it is clear the Union has never lost sight of its central commitment to supporting students and encouraging an active student culture.

This commitment has never been more important. The dream of free and equitable access to education is rapidly fading under the assault of dramatic funding cuts to Universities, decreasing student incomes, and the imposition of up-front fees. Tertiary education is rapidly becoming the preserve of those who can afford it, entrenching a social system based not upon merit but upon accident of birth.

More than ever, students need a collective voice. Student representatives play a key role in their contributions to University Council, Academic Senate, and many committees. Now indispensable to the University, the Union also funds catering outlets across the campus, sports clubs and societies, a post office, news agency, darkroom, shop, housing scheme, bar, and art galleries. The Union assists with the provision of a computer room, book store, hairdresser, bank, health service, travel agency, and counselling and employment guidance.

The Union is much more than this, though. It is the *union* of all its disparate members, and strives to serve and represent them throughout their University lives. The Union is the backbone of the University's cultural life; the result of the dreams and hard work of a century of members, their representatives and staff; and the emblem of the indomitable spirit of students. I hope you will enjoy *State of the Union*.

Bruce Paterson
TUU President, 1999

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people very much for their help with this book (information and photos) and the forthcoming longer history of the Union:

Catherine Alexander, Cynthia Alexander (Johnson), James Alexander, Gilbert Astorga, Ted Barrett, Neal Blewett, Sir Victor and Lady Burley (Lord), Edward Butler, Anna Campbell, Kate Campbell (Corven), Hugh Campbell, Reg Cane, Patrick Carnuccio, Chick Chen, Graham Clements, Dick Clive, Maida Coaldrake (Williams), Bruce Cole, Bob Cotgrove, Peter Cranswick, Marcus Crisp, Peggy Crisp (Seager), John Cruickshank, David Dilger, Regan Drew, Ann Elias (Lilley), Nick Evers, Vic Fitze, Pam Galloway, Diana Gee, Peter Hall, Jim and Lloyd Harris, Jeff Hockley, Shirley Hofto (Jackson), Karen Howard-Henderson, Ken Hudspeth, Graeme Ingles, Ann Jennings, Jonathan Jones, Lady Knight, Jim Laver, Amanda Lohrey (Howard), Cecily McKinley, Beth McLeod (Tribolet), Kath McNicol, Keith Mackriell, Tony Manley, Christina Marquis (O'Farrell), Max Martin, David and Christobel Mattingley (Shepley), John May, Charles Miller, Pat Neasey (Killalea), Doug Padgham, Deidre Parker, Bruce Paterson, Judy Payne, Leeanne Prince (Hughes), Jeff Ransley, Peter Reardon, Helen Reeves (Cooper), Jean Reid (Montgomery), Henry Reynolds, Doug Saul, Jeff Scrivener, Ralph Southorn, Derek Turnbull, Keith 'Johnny' Walker, Les and Fay Wallace (Pearsall), Arthur Watchorn, Stan and Janet Waters (Thompson), Lindsay Whitham, John and Louise White, Charlotte Wilmot (Dennis), Brian Wilson, Rodney and Christine Wood; and the staffs of the Archives Office of Tasmania, the *Mercury*, the Tasmania Library, the University Archives (particularly Shane Roberts) and the Tasmania University Union

I would also like to thank the following people who edited the text: Cathy Alexander, Bruce Paterson and Jeff and Leone Scrivener.

Alison Alexander

The Tasmania University Union logo

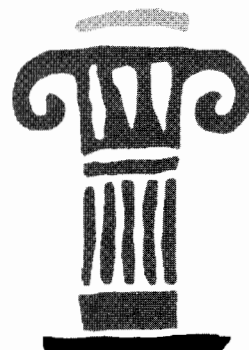
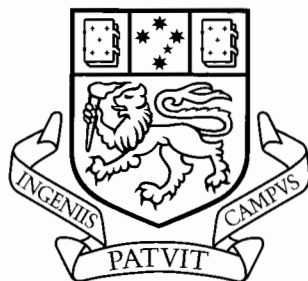
It is not known when the original symbol of the Tasmania University Union was adopted, but it was probably at the time of the Union's revival in the 1920s. The logo was worn on University blazers, as shown by the tennis team on p. 7, and on sports uniforms, such as the hockey and basketball tunics on pp. 7 and 17, and rugby jumpers on p. 14. It was also used on stationery and invitations, as on p. 12. The wording is a pun on the Latin 'unitas', which means unity, but also brings to mind the University of Tasmania. The motto can be translated as 'The University of Tasmania working towards unity'.

By 1940 the University had developed its own logo, complete with rampant lion, and the Union used this for many decades. It was worn on sports uniforms, such as the hockey team on p. 23; it headed *Togatus*, as shown on p. 24; and it adorned the pocket of the University blazer, which some members of the SRC wore (p. 25), and which kept some students warm while they were studying in the Library, p. 28. By the late 1960s the blazer was rarely seen and the logo had vanished from sports uniforms (pp. 49, 60), but the Union continued to use it.

By the early 1990s, the Union had decided that it was time to develop its own logo. A competition was organised, and most suitably was won by a student. The logo depicted a classical pillar of knowledge on a solid footing, to show the Union's links with academic tradition, but drawn in a modern way to emphasise its contemporary outlook.

For the Union's centenary in 1999, another competition resulted in the Centenary logo, which combined the classical pillar with the oldest version: the up-to-date design with the original wording, 'In Unitatem Unitas'.

From left to right: the Union's original logo, the Union changes to the University's logo, TUU logo in the 1990s, the centenary logo.



*Celebrating 100 years
1899 - 1999*

The beginning of the Union

1899–1914

By the 1880s, Tasmania felt itself a flourishing and progressive colony, and moves were made to set up what every modern society needed — a university.

The University of Tasmania was established in 1890 on Hobart's Domain. The ruling body was the University Council, which appointed three staff, and lectures started in 1893. There were few students at first, and most of these were part-timers, but by 1899 there were 35, enough to give some sort of community spirit. So the Tasmania University Union was formed, to facilitate social intercourse and to organise sport.



The university building on the Domain, first built as a private school, the High School of Hobart Town (established in 1847).

In later years the Union described itself as 'a poor creature' at this time, with optional membership resulting in scanty funds, few amenities and no sporting facilities, and its managing committee dominated by graduates and staff. But various sports were played, the Literary Society, Christian Union, and Law Students Association were active, and debating flourished. Women joined in, taking part in debating and tennis, and from 1903 there were usually one or two women on the committee. Gradually the Union grew stronger; from 1907 the committee was dominated by students, and in 1914 it produced its first magazine, the *Platypus*.



Two photographs taken in about 1900 show women students in the library, and male students in the Physics Laboratory. The women are under the eye of a senior male figure, J.H.R. Cruikshank, the Registrar/Librarian.





The university was very small in 1900 when this photograph was taken of staff and students outside the Physics laboratory and Registrar's office. The five staff members sit, with six male students standing behind them, in boaters and bowler hats. To the right, five female students sit on the ground, rather apart from the men, except for one young man reclining behind them.

A more formal photo, taken in 1908, of staff and students outside the imposing front door. Back: Gilbert Lovett, Charles Butler, Charles Rayner, Alan Burn. Centre: Eric Jeffrey, Stephen Hughes, Beatrice Beedham, Sarah Dunbabin, Mary Frances McMahon, Caroline Walker, Alec Mackay, Thomas Crisp. Front: Alfred Clemes, Hedley Wright, R.L. Dunbabin (staff), Prof. Alex McAulay, James Mackay (staff), Prof. W.H. Williams, Alan Crisp, Eric Johnson, Donald Burn.



The *Platypus* editorial described the Union as small, but progressive and enthusiastic, sponsoring football and cricket teams and athletics sports, as well as debating. In 1912 there had been trouble at Commemoration, as the graduation ceremony was called, as University Council said students were too badly behaved, heckling, interrupting one professor with cries of 'pretty cocky' and releasing rotten egg gas. The Union was told to make sure students behaved better next year, and they did, only interrupting some speeches with improvised songs and toy squeakers. There was much drinking afterwards, and social life was generally lively with dances and a ball.

There were problems, however. The University held the Union responsible for the men's common room, but all male students had access to it, and in an 'upheaval', everything except immovable objects like the fireplace had perished. The University expected the Union to pay for renovation and refurnishing, but non-Union members had taken part in the upheaval, so why should the Union pay for everything? But despite such problems, the Union was lively, and *Platypus* reported a 'spirit of cheerful optimism'.

Left: The first page of the Union's first magazine, *The Platypus*, June 1914. The Editorial shows the enthusiasm and progressive outlook of the Union at the time. 'The undergraduate is always a cheerful being', it continues.

Below: The first extant photograph of a University sports team, the tennis team of about 1908, taken at the front door. From left: Eric Johnson, Alan Crisp, Charles Butler, Charles Rayner. The coloured cummerbunds or ties worn round the waist were for identification.

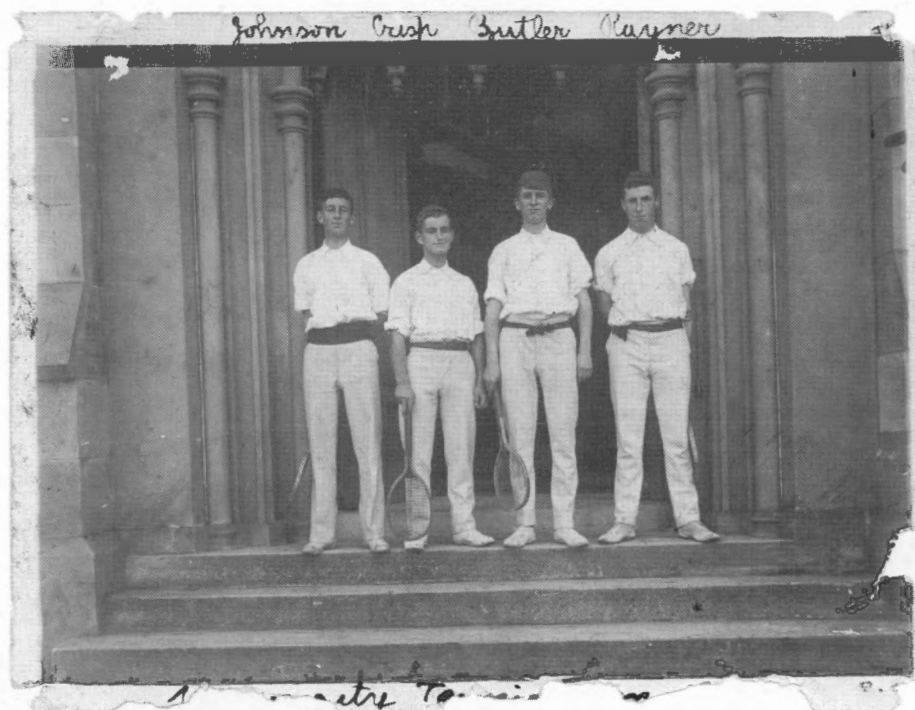
The Platypus

June, 1914

Editorials.

*"Prospera lux ortur, linguisque animisque fauete;
Nunc dicenda bono sunt bona uerba die."*

The auspicious day has dawned at last. For over twenty years has it been coming, and now Time, "the greatest innovator," has approved its dawn. Past generations of students have rather looked forward to this with despair in their hearts; it seemed like hoping for the impossible. They were always assailed by the same old cry which assailed all who wished to introduce progressive but expensive innovations—"We are too small a body to make such an undertaking successful." The same cry could be raised now: but what we lack in numbers we endeavour to make up in enthusiasm. The publication of our Magazine is merely one of the many progressive measures undertaken this year by the Tasmanian University Union.



Early Challenges

1914–1930

The cheerful optimism of early 1914 wilted at the outbreak of war later that year. Like all university activities, the Union suffered badly: male students joined up so numbers fell, and the atmosphere among those left behind was depressed. By 1919 the Union was moribund, with no committee named for 1920.

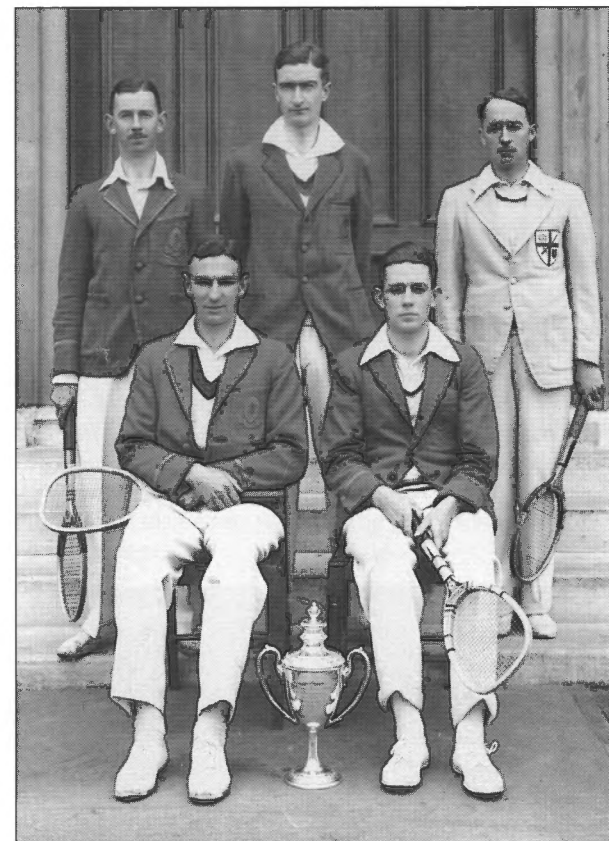
By strenuous efforts, however, the Union was revived to some degree, and in 1921 *Platypus* appeared again. The editorial reported that the Union was not strong, with under thirty members. Sport was languishing, with the football team playing occasional games and only women's hockey really active, though even here it was difficult to field a full team on Saturday mornings.



The first team to represent the university at an Inter-varsity sports carnival, the rowing eight in 1924. From left: H. Freeburgh cox; John Hood, Frederick Ford, Donald Urquhart, Harold Wright, Charles Adams, John Edwards, Colin Gibson, Archibald McDougall. The eight rowed in the intervarsity competition on the Yarra on 31 May 1924, and came fourth out of five crews.

Mainland universities had started inter-varsity sporting competitions, and the University of Tasmania very much wanted to attend, both to prove it was as good as any other university, and to have a good time. The main problem was lack of money, but this was overcome when the University Council agreed to a compulsory fee for all students, which entitled them to use the common rooms and join the social, literary and debating societies. This meant that the numerous Teachers' College students who took university subjects had to join. A further payment provided full membership, which included playing sport and holding office.

In 1923 a Rowing Club was formed specifically to send a team to inter-varsity the next year; in 1925 the Tasmanian eight won, a wonderful triumph. Athletics, tennis, women's basketball and women's hockey also sent teams to inter-varsity, but debating was the real success story, with Tasmania winning twice. The University hosted several inter-varsities itself, so the Union could feel that Tasmania was really accepted on the national scene, and claimed that entering inter-varsity brought 'an immediately felt and far-flung beneficial effect'.



Tasmania University tennis team, 1930, winners of the A grade roster. Back: C.A.S. Page, Frank Sayers, E.R. 'Cobber' Henry. Front: Allan Knight, Keith Archer. Team members are very smart in university blazers, blue with red and gold, though Henry wears one from another institution. The photograph was taken in front of the University main door.

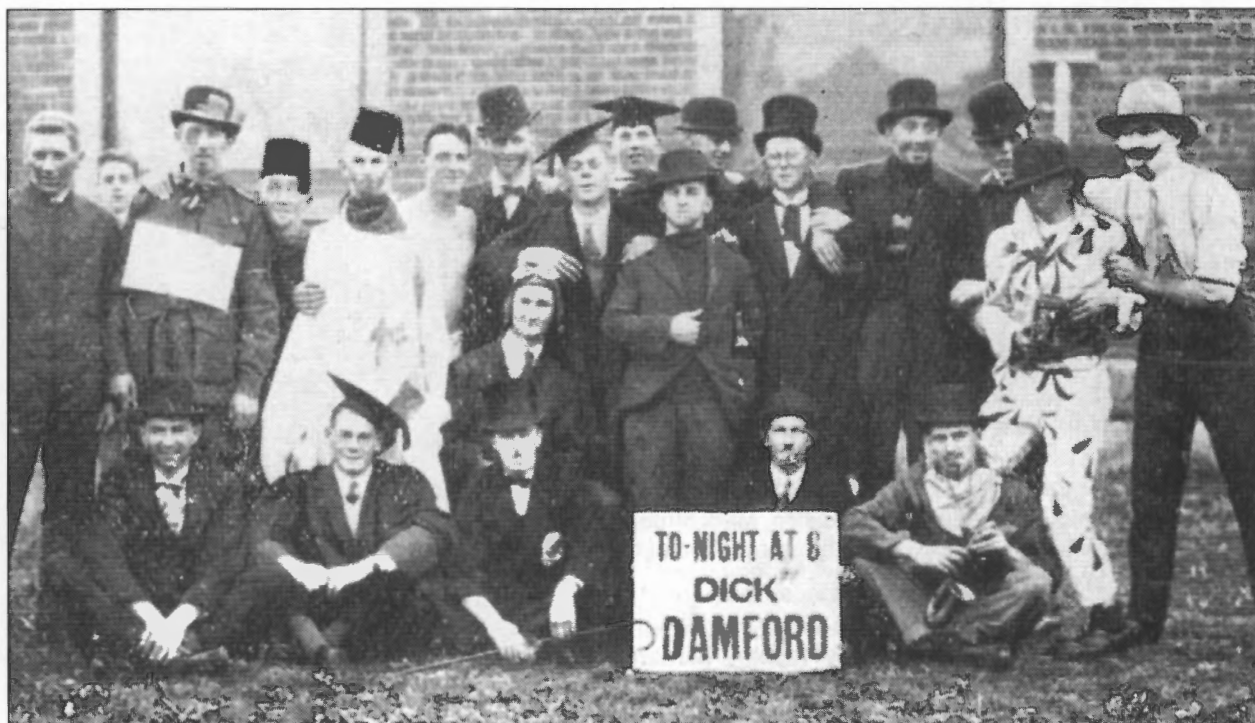
Tasmania University Hockey team, 1930: tunics with the University crest, black stockings, ordinary shoes and in some cases, shin pads. Back: Phyllis Jillett, Stella Pemberton, -, Winnie Davis, Jean Batt, -. Front: Doreen Taylor, Lilian Ault, Muriel Lewis, Marjorie Baker, -. (As there was no men's hockey team, this was *the* University hockey team.)

At home, football was played, the Literary Society and Christian Union continued, and there were faculty associations for Law, Engineering and Commerce students. The Social Club held dances and the annual ball, and every few years a play was put on to raise funds for sporting groups. Overall, in the 1920s, up to seventeen clubs were operating.

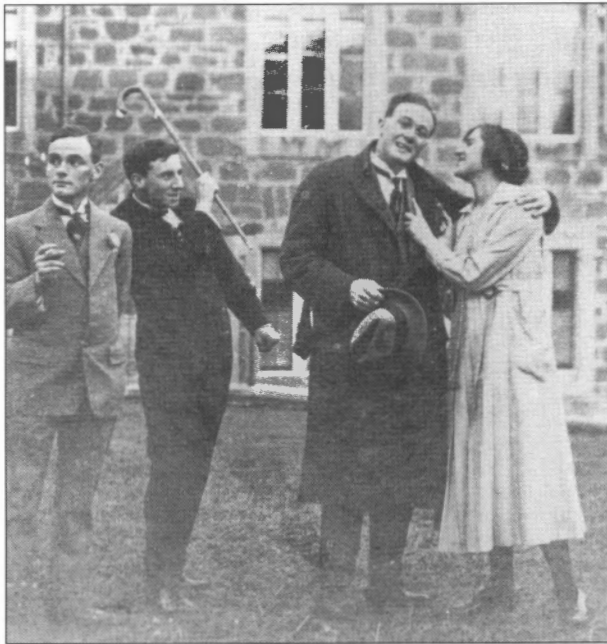
The most lively activities were the annual Commemoration ceremonies. Students in costumes (including drag) processed through Hobart streets, protesting against current events and singing ribald songs; they interrupted formal proceedings in the evening with heckling, whistling and activities such as suspending a bottle of stout and a crayfish over the Chancellor's head as he was giving a speech; and they wound up with a dance which went on until the small hours. The best-known Commem prank was when students changed an advertisement on a hill overlooking Hobart from 'Keen's Curry' to 'Hell's Curse'. Exception was sometimes taken to student activities, and the songs and skits were moved to a separate event, 'Mock Commem', from 1925.



Commem Day 1929. As usual, the University Council comes in for criticism in the students' parade, and a cheerful group advertises Mock Commem that night. Characters include a convict, an aviator, Arabs, scholars, gentlemen, various ruffians and a man with a small saxophone.



The Union, responsible for these social events, was run by a committee chaired by lecturer Charles King. But *Platypus* complained of student apathy, especially after the men's common room was moved to a small, uninviting tin shed, where communal life did not flourish. Another revival in 1925 saw a new constitution; the committee became the Students' Representative Council, with an elected executive, delegates from the various clubs, and a student president. Still, there were insufficient fully-paid-up Union members, and the SRC pressed for compulsory membership. Finally, in 1930, the University Council made full membership compulsory. This put the Union on a much better financial footing, and the SRC finally felt that its efforts to create a better spirit among students were successful.



Members of the University Dramatic Club rehearsing 'June', 1921, in front of the University buildings. From left: Terence Crisp, Mark Stump, Lance Geeves, Beryl Miller. The play was put on, not so much out of a love of drama, but to raise funds to build a tennis court.

First extant photo of the Students Representative Council of the University of Tasmania, 1929. Back: Peter Crisp, Pierre Tapping, Bernard Donnelly, Brian Smith, Keith Archer, Geoff Sorell, 'Shrimp' Archer. Front: Eric Warlow-Davies, Muriel Lewis, Adye Page, Ron Lord (president), Edna Davis, Roy Fagan.

Student humour: a song composed for Commem, 1930. Professor Flynn was Errol Flynn's father, and Professor Dunbabin was notoriously well-rounded.

Commemoration Songs

4. THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.

Tune: "Michael Finnigan."

There is a Prof. called Thompson Flynnnigin.
He gets tight through drinking ginagen,
Thus he wastes away his tinagen,
Poor old Thompson Flynnnigin.

There is a Prof. called Thompson Flynnnigin.
Set his hopes on a sardine tinnigin,
But God's Own Country has got inigin,
Poor old Thompson Flynnnigin.

There is a Prof. called Dunbabinigin,
Oft he scratches at his shinigin,
Takes off several yards of skinigin,
Poor old Dunbabinigin.

There is a Prof. called Dunbabinigin,
Very fat and longs to be thinigin,
When he dies he'll have to beginigin,
Poor old Dunbabinigin.



The Union flexes its muscles

1931–1939

Dramatic events occurred in 1931. Due to the Depression, Teachers' College students' allowances had been cut, and they complained of the high compulsory Union fee, and tried to stage a *coup d'état* by putting up candidates at Union elections. They were defeated, and university students remained in control.



Students' Representative Council, 1936. Back: Don Gee, John Bushby, -. Centre: Paul Edwards, Bob Kennedy, Charlotte Dennis, Ruth Clemes, Arthur Watchorn, Colin Brownell. Front: Joan Courtney-Pratt, John May, Ted Giblin (president), Jack Green, Victor Burley.

As *Platypus* was defunct, the Union started a fortnightly paper, *Togatus*, which provided Union and University news and an outlet for student opinion. It recorded quiet years during the Depression. The Union could usually only afford to send one team to inter-varsity, though there were two victories, in rifle shooting and debating. Commem continued to be raucous, but after a sheep's head was lowered over the professors' heads and crackers were let off in 1931, undergraduates were banned from the ceremony, and they put their energies into the procession and Mock Commem. Then the University Council decided that even Mock Commem was too controversial (the rowing crew were hauled over the coals for their song about 'Mr Les Bian') and banned it in 1934.

Christ College, founded as a men's accommodation college and theological college in 1929, quickly became a centre of university and union life. In 1935 it contained: Back: Lance Luck (theological student or 'theolog'), R. Thollar (theolog), Paul Wood (SRC), Alan Briggs (footballer), Geoff Reading (editor of *Cactus*, SRC), John Bushby (SRC, play producer), Grey Edwards (SRC). Centre: Will Verrall (theolog), John May (theolog, editor of *Togatus*, SRC vice-president), Max Downie (theolog), C. Cowling (theolog), J.F. McGrath, J.P. McGrath, Don Gee (SRC president), P.R. Edwards (SRC). Front: M.P. Crisp, David Barclay (SRC), Roy Fagan (SRC president), Canon Barrett, George Hodgson (SRC president), J.M. Crisp (rugby player), Brian Mattingley (SRC).



In 1935 University Council tried to exert control over the Union, which resisted this strenuously, and from this date, with the ebbing of the Depression, student activities became livelier. The SRC generally ran smoothly, though the women members (representing women's sports, and one women's representative) sometimes complained that they were not treated fairly. The Union tried to gain a better men's common room, with no success, and was galvanised into action when the National Union of Australian University Students was formed in 1937. The National Union sent a stream of decisions to the Union for ratification, and Tasmania was firmly part of the national student union scene. National Union policy included questioning the lecture system and urging for student representation on university bodies; the Tasmanian Union followed these policies and did obtain student representation on the University Council, though with no voting rights.



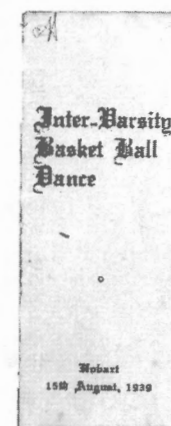
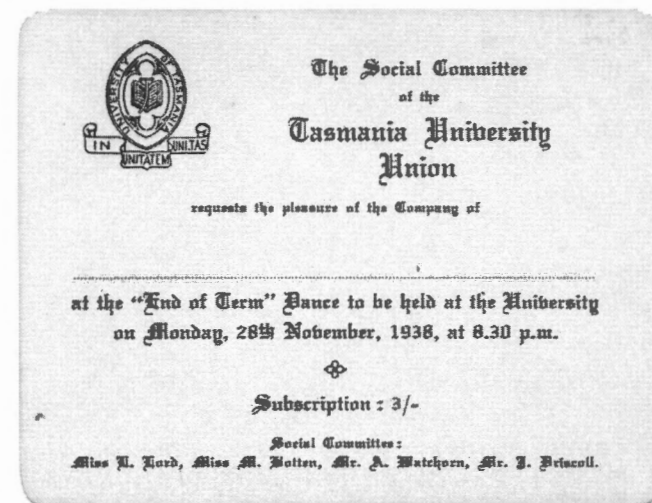
'The tin shed': exterior shot of the men's common. Peter Green stands centre.

Interior shot of the men's common room, with students looking neat and well-behaved, innocently reading newspapers. The other side of their activity is illustrated by the signs on the walls, taken from various institutions, and several souvenirs from inter-varsity trips. It was rumoured that an interstate nunnery complained about the theft of their sign before the team arrived home; the sign was returned.



Student life was enlivened by the activities of Geoffrey Reading, a radical who criticised the SRC and forced some changes, and in his journal *Cactus* criticised almost every facet of middle class life: false morality, hypocrisy, intolerance, 'the morons, the philistines, the reactionaries'. The University Council tried to suppress *Cactus*, but the Union and others within the University defended freedom of speech, and Reading remained unsuppressed.

Rehearsing the play, 'The Wind and the Rain', 1936, which *Togatus* described as 'a delightful comedy of student life in a Scottish University City. It is notable for its very clever character drawing, amusing dialogue, and charming love scenes'. The play was 'an outstanding success' in Hobart. From left: George Hodgson (a feckless medical student), Jack Bushby (hero and producer), June Goddard (heroine), Felix St Hill, Megan Griffiths; John May, not illustrated, played the role of a volatile Frenchman.



Invitation from the Union to the End of Term Dance, 1938, showing the first University crest. Loyal Lord, a member of the Social Committee, recalled that dances were held in the Library: 'we had to do things round the books'. Someone would sit on a bag and be pushed around to polish the floor, and the supper would be put out in a lecture room. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Programme from the inter-arsity Basketball dance, 1939, with names for partners and ribbon to which a tiny pencil was attached.

Reading also criticised 'the usual bilge about the spiritual value of Intersports', but other students enjoyed inter-varsity. In Hobart, students took part in football, rugby, tennis, rowing, rifle shooting, athletics and skiing (men), and hockey, basketball, tennis and skiing (women). Debating, drama (with an annual play), the Student Christian Movement, the International Relations Club and various faculty clubs were active, and *Togatus* covered these activities and included many controversies — does God exist? is Professor Taylor anti-Catholic? freedom of speech, student rights and so on.



University of Tasmania rifle team, which won the Venour-Nathan Shield in 1934 at inter-varsity. Back: Pierre Tapping, Herbert Nicholls, John Graham, Donald Rockliff, David Barclay. Front: Cecil Jillett, Macdonell Woods, Sydney Seares.

Controversy arose, again, over student behaviour at Commem. Mock Commem was allowed from 1935 and students satirised the University, professors, local bigwigs, international activities and anything else they could think of. Celebrities such as Hitler, Mussolini and the local premier were also lampooned in the annual procession, but when students were again allowed to attend the official Commem in 1938, trouble arose. Some brought in tennis balls filled with tear gas; the University Council was not amused, and once more banned students, and for good measure the procession and Mock Commem, saying that student behaviour lessened the University's standing in the community and threatened its financial support, with taxpayers unwilling to fund it if this was all it could produce.



Tasmania University Rugby team, premiers 1934. Back: J. McGrath, H. James, J.E. Klug, K.O. Shatwell, Herbert Nicholls, J. McG. Hood, P.T. Unwin. Front: D.L. Anderson, A.B. Hunt, B.J.B. Morris, M.P. Crisp (captain), J.E. Mullen, I. Paull, F.C. Mitchell. Seated: John Green, J.M. Crisp.

The SRC reacted by trying to improve the image of students, with public debates on Fascism and publicity for the excellent annual play. The scheme was slightly marred when students put a false cable outside the *Mercury* office claiming that war had broken out, which entertained many people but outraged the establishment.

THE TASMANIA UNIVERSITY UNION
(Assisted by the Privy Council, and Y.W.C.A.)

Presents its 12th Annual

Commemoration

In collusion with Mrs. SIMPSON

attended by EARL RNEST DWARD

at Bill Hook's Home

THE TOWN HALL

From May 13th to May 14th, 1937

Item 8. -- A little She-ing Interlude
or Murgatroyd and Winterbottom at the
Winter Sports.

"IT-IS APIS POTITIS."

Kindly lent at great inconvenience by R. L. Dunbabin.

"And now for a quick one." (Dr. Fidget).

5

INTERVAL

Item 10.— Conferring of Degrees.

"O yearly it happens that some victims must be failed,
I've got a little list, I've got a little list,
Of society offenders who might very well be nailed,
I've got them on my list, I've got them on my list."

"The Mikado."

The Chancellor Willie Jostle'em Tillhe Stops
The Registrar Col. John-Thomas by perm. of Lady Friends
The Governor By permission of Miss McLennon

"Hotspots from History." (Smith's Weekly).

Student humour from the Mock Commem programme, 1937: sending up Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson, the Chancellor (William Joshua Tilley Stops), and the professors. Students recall how daring it was to include "IT-IS APIS POTITIS".

APPENDIX 2.

The Profs. are sitting in a row, in a row,
They look impressive but we know, yes
we know,
Tho' they seem such sober intellectual folk,
They're really nothing but a joke!

There's Prof. Shatwell so pugnacious,
There's Macaulay so fallacious,
Theres' old Dunny who's a rival for the
students' love
But where, but where, are all the rest,
all the rest?
There's Pitman, nothing but a pest, but
a pest,
And King at home a-running world affairs,
And Taylor saying of his prayers.

Yes, our Profs. are all peculiar,
Do not let their learning fool yer.
But remember that the best in life is beer,
good beer:
So come then, let us sing our song, sing
our song,
And let the show go right along, right
along,
Will stage Commem. with all its usual fun,
And have you laughing till we're done.

By this time, the Union was well established, organising student life and representing students to University authorities and the general community. It was well run, with its high turnover of officers and habit of calling general meetings to decide controversial issues showing its democratic spirit, at least as far as men were concerned; it had adequate finance (enough for its first paid employee, a part-time secretary, in 1939); it enjoyed good support from students and ran its newspaper successfully; and it played a part in the national student scene, providing both president and secretary of the National Union in 1939.

The Commem parade about to set off, 1938. Either Geoff Reading or Harry Lewis is Hitler, top, with Tommy Simpson as Mussolini beside him, both giving the Fascist salute. The 'Ericists' were presumably a send-up of the Attorney General, Eric Ogilvie. Arthur Watchorn stands right, and sundry other students wear an assortment of clothes including floral knickers, and play on the trombone, tuba, trumpet and drum. The students ended up at the Belvedere for a dance. Also present were some German officers from a warship in port, who took offence at seeing their Fuhrer satirised. Either at this Commem or later, Harry Lewis spent the night in jail after impersonating Hitler. (Photograph courtesy of the *Mercury*)



The Second World War

1939–1945

In September 1939 the Second World War broke out, and from the start, the University and the Union were behind the war effort. The Government was in control of manpower, and people in reserved occupations (such as senior Science and Engineering students) could not enlist. Many other students did join the armed forces, and those at home joined the civil defence and air raid precaution teams. With labour scarce, some picked fruit and helped in convalescent homes in their holidays. The Physics Department set up an Optical Annexe to make prisms for gun sights, and many students helped with this work; other research included making producer gas to power cars. The SRC cancelled inter-varsity contests in 1940, and donated the money to the Government for the war effort.



Tasmania University basketball team, state champions, 1940 or 1941. Betty Smith, Inga Smith, Bev Foot, M. Dwyer, Maida Williams, Cynthia Johnson, Shirley MacClaine. The team were state champions so often, recalled Cynthia, that it became boring. The uniform, red with a blue band or vice versa, was provided by the University, and the girls provided their own white shirts, black bloomers, black stockings and black sandals.

Togatus shows that students supported the war effort, but there were controversies about how much government control was desirable, and whether it should be official Union policy to support the war effort. The Discussion Club invited a local pacifist to address them, in order to attack him, but he was so gentle that everyone was kind to him.

For the first two years the war seemed remote, and the Union was more concerned with its own affairs. A new constitution in 1940 meant all eight members of the SRC were directly elected (some had been club representatives); a budget was now presented; a Union handbook was printed for students; and a part-time assistant was employed. In 1941 the Union elected its first female president, Cynthia Johnson, who defeated two male candidates and was praised by fellow students as very efficient and a wonderful leader.

Togatus faces invasion, March 1942.

The Official Journal of the Tasmania
University Union.

Published by authority of the S.R.C.

Togatus

FREE TO STUDENTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Volume XII.

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH, 1942.

Number 1.

THE UNIVERSITY AND TOTAL WAR

A JOB TO BE DONE

Now that we have the opportunity of a year's study before us it is vital that we understand the University's place in Australia's mobilization for total war. In the following article Professor Taylor, Chairman of the Professorial Board and Acting-Registrar of the University, tells us the duties of the University's staff and students.

We face the possibility of conquest by a greatly superior foe. Before you read my words invasion may have begun. The whole man and woman power of Australia, even if fully used, may insufficient for adequate defence of our coun-

are understaffed, and men will also be needed to dig trenches. Professor Elliot is the University A.R.P. Warden.

Notices.

The only regular channel of communi-

MEN WANTED URGENTLY

Eight men are wanted for stretcher bearing and fire squads. They should be around the University buildings most of the day (Science students are the most likely).

Those liable for Military service or external civil defence would be unsuitable.

Volunteers apply to Prof. Elliot IMMEDIATELY.

"Togatus" NEXT ISSUE

"Togatus" will be published again on Thursday, 26 March, and then (we hope) on alternate Thursdays throughout the academic year. A pile will be placed in each Common Room for ordinary University students, and the paper will be distributed to the Teachers' College and Christ College as well. Every Union member is entitled to one copy free.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For members of the staff and for graduates, the annual subscription is 1/6 at the University or 3/- posted.

Students continued to enjoy life; in 1940 and 1941 the Union staged revues, satirising characters such as Hitler, Stalin, Unity Mitford and 'the Grand Poofta of Patagonia'. Another Commem day activity was a marathon beer-drinking contest.

In early 1942 a Japanese invasion seemed imminent, and *Togatus* became very serious: 'Before you read my words invasion may have begun.' Men were wanted for stretcher bearing and fire-fighting squads; students were told what to do in the event of an air raid, and were asked to help dig trenches beside the university. Volunteers were scarce, however, and as one student said, 'in the remote event of a Japanese invasion, I wondered what the hell good they'd do, little trenches outside the door'. Students did not follow the official line unthinkingly.



'The 1944 Law Faculty takes things in its stride — & in its own time — even although it may be a bit out of step!' was Chick Chen's caption for this photograph. Budding lawyers on the front steps of the University are, from left: John Wilson, 'Wedges' Coleman, Lloyd Bath, Roger Jennings, Graeme Thompson, Frank Lillas, Mary Bottriell, Bob Nettleford. Behind: Pat Seager, and further back, Tom Simpson.

SRC 1941, with the first woman president. Back: Geoffrey Simmons, Graham Tudor, Geoffrey Hood. Centre: Bernard Denholm, Mary Meston, Leonore St Leger, Vic Fitze. Front: Lloyd Harris (secretary), Cynthia Johnson (president), Charles Miller (vice-president).



Student activities lessened with so many men away, but in the later years of the war some built up again, with not only more societies, but antics at the Union annual general meetings and Commem, and the formation of the first political clubs, Labor and Liberal. The SRC was busy planning a Union building at the University's new site in Sandy Bay.

In 1945 student numbers swelled to over five hundred for the first time, as many men came back from the armed forces. The post-war years were to bring even more changes.



Inter-faculty athletics carnival, 1945, the first for years. 'Wedges' Coleman clears 157.5 cm with a western roll (now illegal). The Science Faculty won the carnival.

NUAUS conference, Adelaide, January 45, with two Tasmanian representatives. Back: Chick Chen and Bruce Scott (Tasmania), Doug Murphy (Melbourne), Frank Hibberd (WA), John Prescott (Adelaide). Centre: Frank Fowler and Mary Jackson (Sydney), Tim Suttor (Adelaide), Janet McWilliam (Brisbane), Geoff Serle and Betty Reilly (Melbourne), Trevor Whalley (Brisbane), Pat Vines. Front: Sam Jacob (Adelaide), Marnie Watt (Sydney), John Reeves (president), Jim Bitchart (Melbourne), Hugh Le Breton (secretary), Meg Smith, David Bottomley.

The University is invaded by ex-servicemen

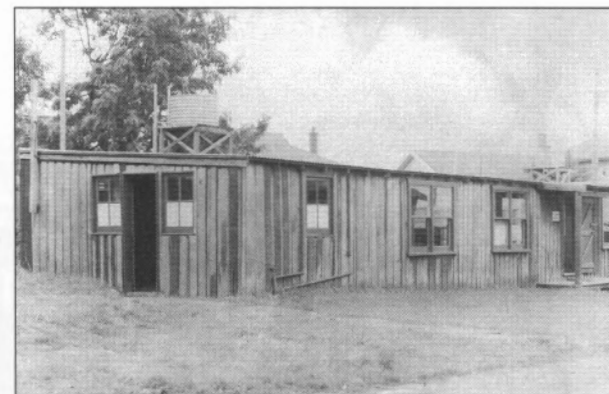
1945–1949

The University Union finished the war in a depressed state. Clubs and societies lacked vitality, facilities were run down, people were exhausted and there was little enthusiasm. From 1945 university departments began to move to Sandy Bay, where they were housed in ex-army Musset huts, but there seemed to be no enthusiasm for moving the whole University there.



SRC 1947/8, photographed in academic dress. Back: Noel Foster, Brian Wilson, Ian Inglis, Malcolm McRae, Dick Taylor. Front: Barbara Richmond, Doug Padgham, Janet McRae. Noel, Malcolm, Dick and Doug were ex-servicemen.

From 1946, student numbers rose enormously with the influx of ex-servicemen, given university training by the Government. They made up a third of the students, and were much admired by those straight from school (especially girls); they were more mature, had seen life, had a bit of money, and were often dashing and exciting. They had less regard for authority and would 'talk to staff man to man' (their version) or 'cheek the staff' (younger students' version). For the next six years all Union presidents were ex-servicemen, and they brought life into other areas as well.



Typical Sandy Bay photograph: the Union building, 1946–1959. This contained the usual amenities of the time, men's and women's rooms, table tennis equipment and a small canteen.

Men's ballet members from the second Old Nick revue, *Red Hot*. From left: Rodney Wood, John Renney, Ron Fisher, Peter Manson, Geoff Watson, Keith 'Johnny' Walker, Peter Anstey.

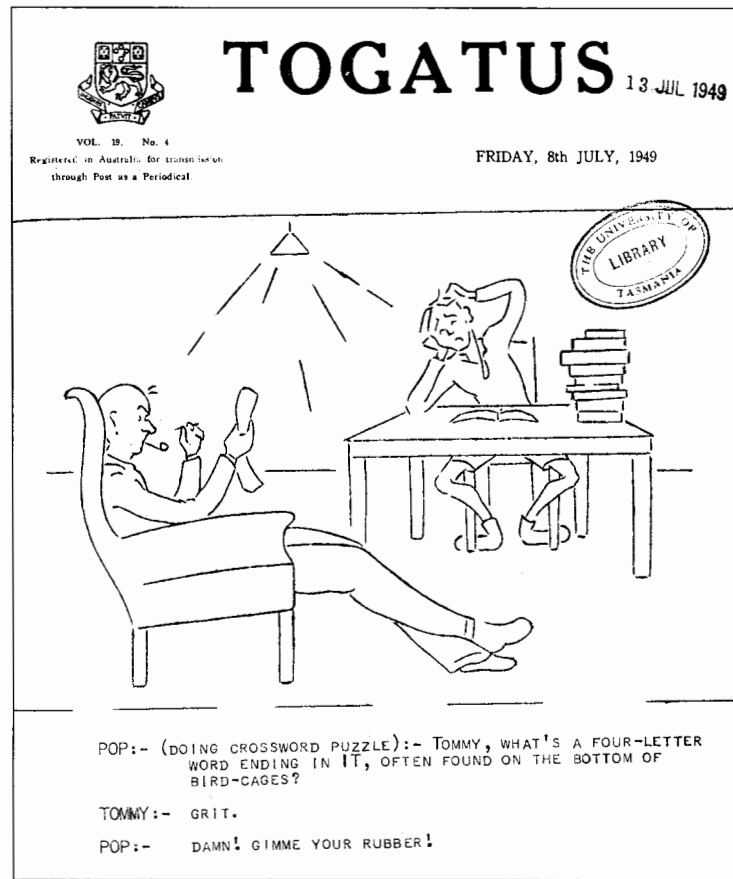
The SRC under the first ex-serviceman president was dismissed in dramatic circumstances by a Union meeting, but from then onwards Union government was stable. The SRC organised more common room space, started to revive sport, began Orientation Week and a second-hand bookstall, tried to gain sporting facilities, and even managed to obtain the Wilson Memorial Roof over part of the men's lavatory (called after Brian Wilson, who started a fund to build it. The roof was irreverently known as the Wilson Erection). It denied that there was Communist influence in the University, and refused to give names of Communists when government agents tried to find them out.



Tasmania University men's hockey team, 1948, after winning a the southern and state premierships. Back: Geoff Benjamin, Neville Parsons, Ian Tanner, Lance Haslope, Derek Waters, Don Tuck. Front: Max Martin, John Waterhouse (captain), Colin Johns, Dennis Turner, Jack Dean.

The SRC's greatest achievement in these years, according to president Doug Padgham, was starting Old Nick. This was the University theatre company, given its name because the English company Old Vic was visiting, and because the first revue, *Smokin' Hot*, was set in Hell. Old Nick's annual revue, and more serious plays, were successful from the start, and it became known as a lively student group.

Excitement also came from Commem, where students staged their traditional procession, and played pranks such as a sign on a clothes store: 'Early Sale! Pants Down! Come at your Convenience!' At the ceremony, some students threw crackers and flour bombs on the stage and heckled during the Chancellor's speech. The University Council took a dim view and fined them, though *Togatus* protested that Council was acting illegally. *Togatus* had some problems in these years, mainly lack of finance and troubles with printers, and for a year no issues appeared.



The more conservative groups on campus were up in arms after this cover of *Togatus* appeared in 1949.

The Lull before the Storm

1950–1954

From 1950 to 1954 university life was stable, with the number of ex-servicemen decreasing, and little happening about the move to Sandy Bay. The SRC made some improvements such as starting a canteen; *Togatus* revived under competent editors and became an irritant to the authorities and sometimes the SRC; Old Nick continued entertaining, 'a bunch of amiable lunatics', and there were some lively Union meetings over issues like how much money should go to sport, and who controlled *Togatus* — Ted Barrett, president from 1951 to 1953, recalled having to keep order with an umpire's whistle. Under the Colombo Plan, students from Asia started to arrive. They played new sports like badminton, and started to be elected to the SRC.



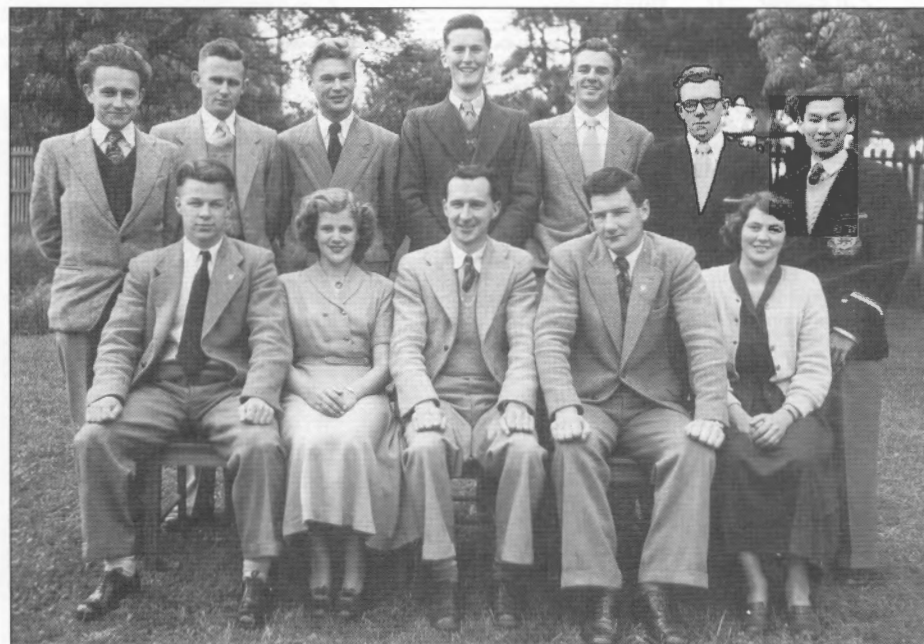
Photos taken by student Graham Clements of the Commem Parade, 1954.

Above: Men on scooters, daringly dressed in women's attire — 'very risqué!' commented Graham.

Below: The parade started off from the University, passing under the arch set up for the Queen's visit that year. It included trucks, pedestrians, and men on scooters.

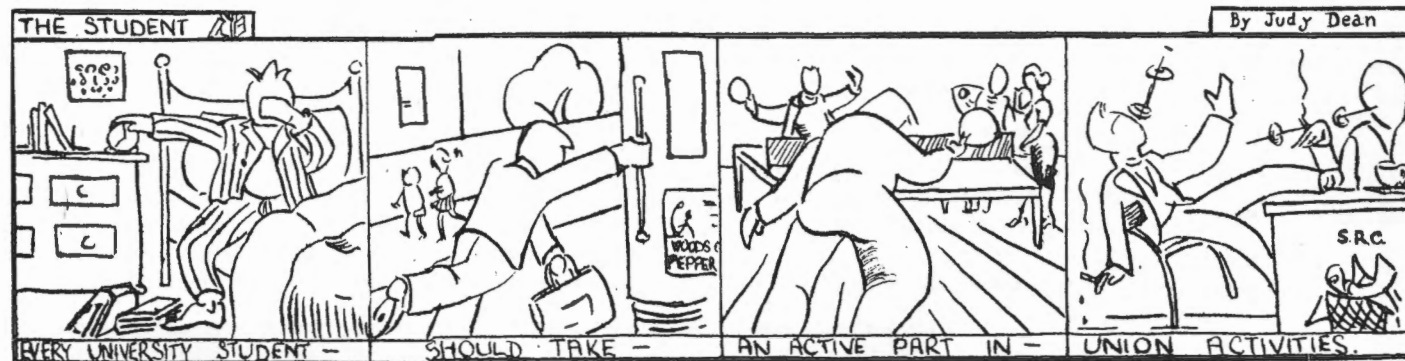


SRC 1953. Back: Les Wallace (assistant secretary, Arts), John Morris (president Clubs and Societies, Law), John Taylor (housing officer, Law), Bruce Cole (president Sports Council, Engineering, Rhodes Scholar), Keith Mackriell (employment officer, Arts), John Clark (editor *Togatus* 1954, Old Nick, Arts), George Chatchai. Front: Neal Blewett (NUAUS, publicity officer, Arts), Fay Pearsall (treasurer, Commerce), Ted Barrett (president, Arts), Gordon Jacques (secretary, Engineering), Robin Benjamin (chairman Social Committee, Arts). Between them the group played hockey, soccer, Australian Rules and rugby, and were in Old Nick, *Togatus*, Chess, Debating, Political Science, Student Teachers and Tramps clubs.



Commem was lively, with 1954 a vintage year for the procession, as pictured. In 'the case of the century' a group of students from Christ College staged a mock bank raid and ended up in court, though their lawyer managed to get them acquitted (one later became a notable politician). Most students, however, were well behaved, determined to gain their qualifications and start earning a living. Women were treated like ladies, and sex before marriage was still fairly rare. Students had 'a lot of innocent fun' at University, and were excited by the optimistic air of the times, one of reconstruction and progress.

Togatus cartoonist Judy Dean's view of student life, 1953



Below: More photos taken by student Graham Clements of the Commem Parade, 1954.

Left: The Old Nick float in central Hobart, advertising the revue, 'Royal Routine', with girls in short skirts looking slightly embarrassed and the crowd laughing at either side.

Right: The Jane Franklin Hall float, with Noel Foster as King Farouk and a bevy of girls, looking not at all embarrassed, as his harem.



'This sorry business': the Royal Commission and the Orr Case

1954–1959

For years students and staff had put up with the cramped and dingy buildings on the Domain, the division of the University into three sites (the Domain, Sandy Bay and some classes at the Technical College) and poor pay and working conditions for staff. In the mid 1950s dissatisfaction grew and staff and students complained, blaming the University Council for inaction. A Royal Commission into the University upheld their claims, recommending an immediate move to Sandy Bay, and other reforms. Under energetic president Malcolm Hills, the Union received £-for-£ state government support, planned a magnificent new Union Building at Sandy Bay, and raised the huge sum of £25,000 to erect it.



A protest against conditions at the University, October 1954. Students picketed a University Council meeting, demanding a united university and accusing Council members of being Fascists and dinosaurs. The hidden placard reads: 'Welcome! to the Chancellor of the world's poorest university'. Col Lane in fair isle jumper. (Photograph courtesy of the *Mercury*.)

Among staff members who complained was Professor Orr of Philosophy, and when in 1956 allegations were made that he had seduced one of his students, the University Council summarily dismissed him. This split the University: Orr's supporters thought the University Council denied him a fair chance to defend himself; his opponents thought his dismissal deserved. Orr lost two court appeals, but sympathy for his cause grew. *Togatus* almost always supported Orr fervently; the SRC was never entirely pro-Orr, but took no interest in assisting the student concerned, a Union member; the small number of politically active students were mostly behind Orr, or at least opposed to the Council. In March 1957 the first demonstration by Tasmanian students protested that the *Mercury* had not reported that Orr's house had been stoned. Not all students supported Orr, however, and people recall an unpleasant atmosphere; it was hard to keep out of the argument, and there was much ill-feeling and muttering in corners.



Student protest when the *Mercury* failed to report an attack on Orr's house, 1957. The protest was organised by Henry Reynolds and Nick Evers; in the front of the photo are Geoff 'Daffy' Burke and Duncan Chappell.

Conditions at the Domain: the Library is certainly full of students studying.



When a strait-laced member of the SRC complained that the *Togatus* office was untidy, *Togatus* staff greatly enjoyed posing for a photo of what they claimed was people's idea of the *Togatus* office — drink, nudity and general debauchery. The trousers, left, shield Bruce Poulson, and the impressive physiques at right belong to Christina O'Farrell and Nick Evers. (1957.)

Orr made occasional headlines in *Togatus* for years. This issue reported the first meeting of students on the topic, 1958.

Meanwhile, the Murray Committee's report into Australian universities justified staff and students' complaints, saying the intolerable condition of the University of Tasmania 'almost beggars description'. Commonwealth money was made available for building, and with this, the move to Sandy Bay gained momentum. The new and extremely competent Union president, Val Smith, oversaw the completion of the Union Building in 1959. By this time the Orr case was news around Australia, and was used by university Staff Associations to spearhead their campaign for better working conditions for academics. Criticism of the University made students fear that the value of their degrees would be lessened, and the Union, and many other groups, called for an inquiry into the case to settle the question. The University Council stood firm against it, and in this atmosphere of mistrust and division the Union prepared to move to Sandy Bay.

STUDENT SILENCE ON ORR BROKEN

TOGATUS

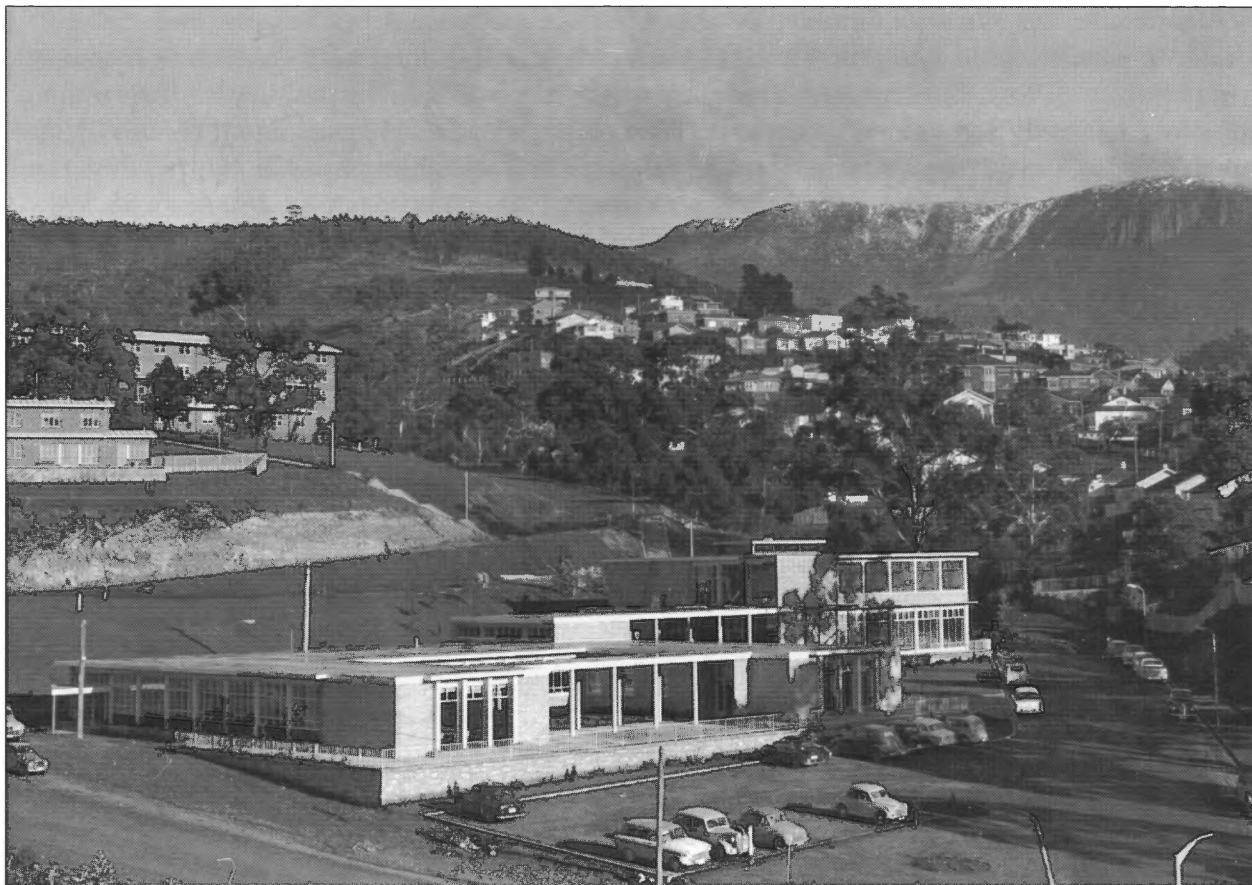
A meeting of over eighty students, convened by the Radical Society of the University of Tasmania, on Bastille Day, July 14th, passed four motions supporting Professor S. S. Orr.

This is the first occasion on which Union Members have met to openly discuss and record their opinions on what has been undoubtedly the most important issue in the University in the last three years.

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Registered in Australia for transmission through the post as a periodical.

Vol. 28 TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1958

No. 6



The Union Building after its first extension: at first it was all one storey, but a second floor has been built above the Ref.

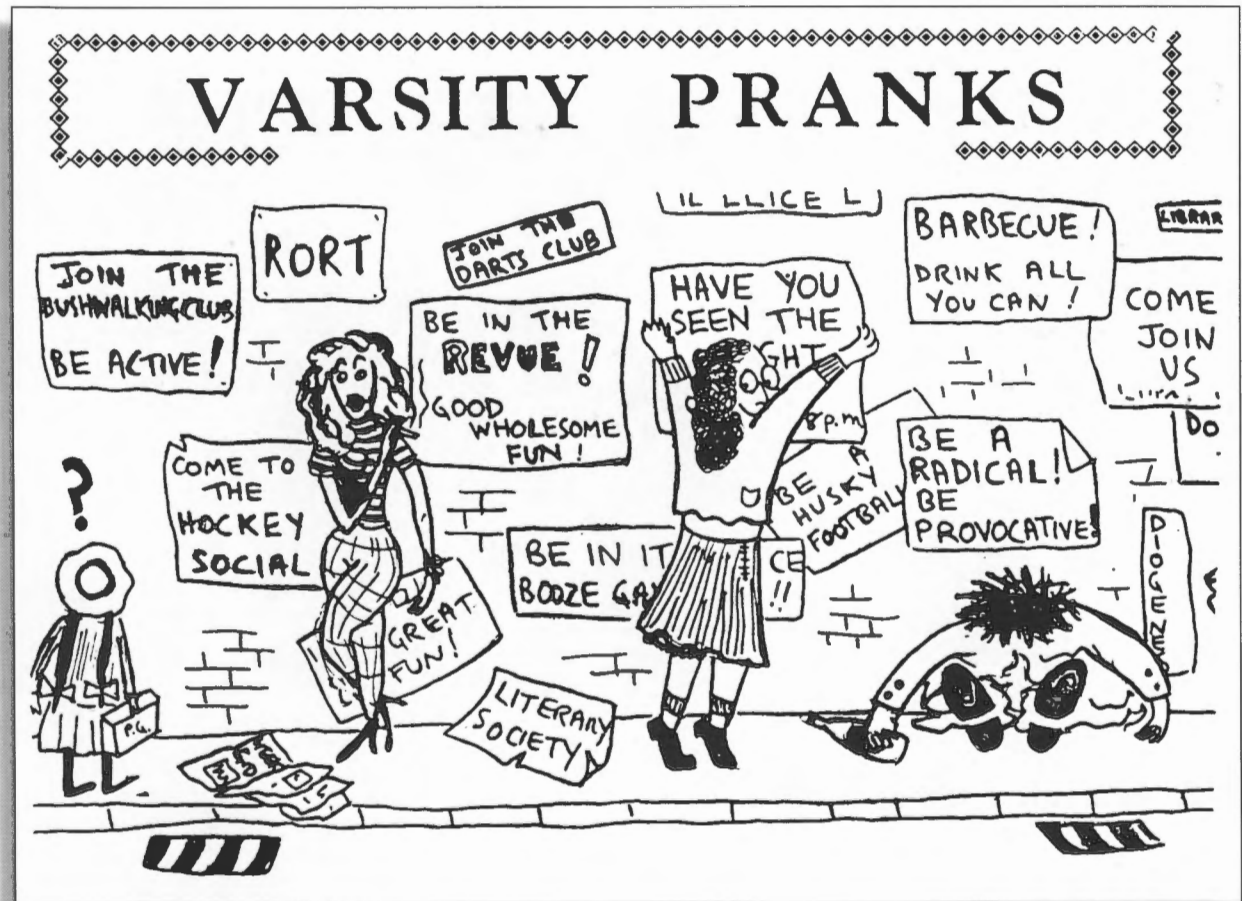
Engineering students assist in planning the Union Building, 1956.

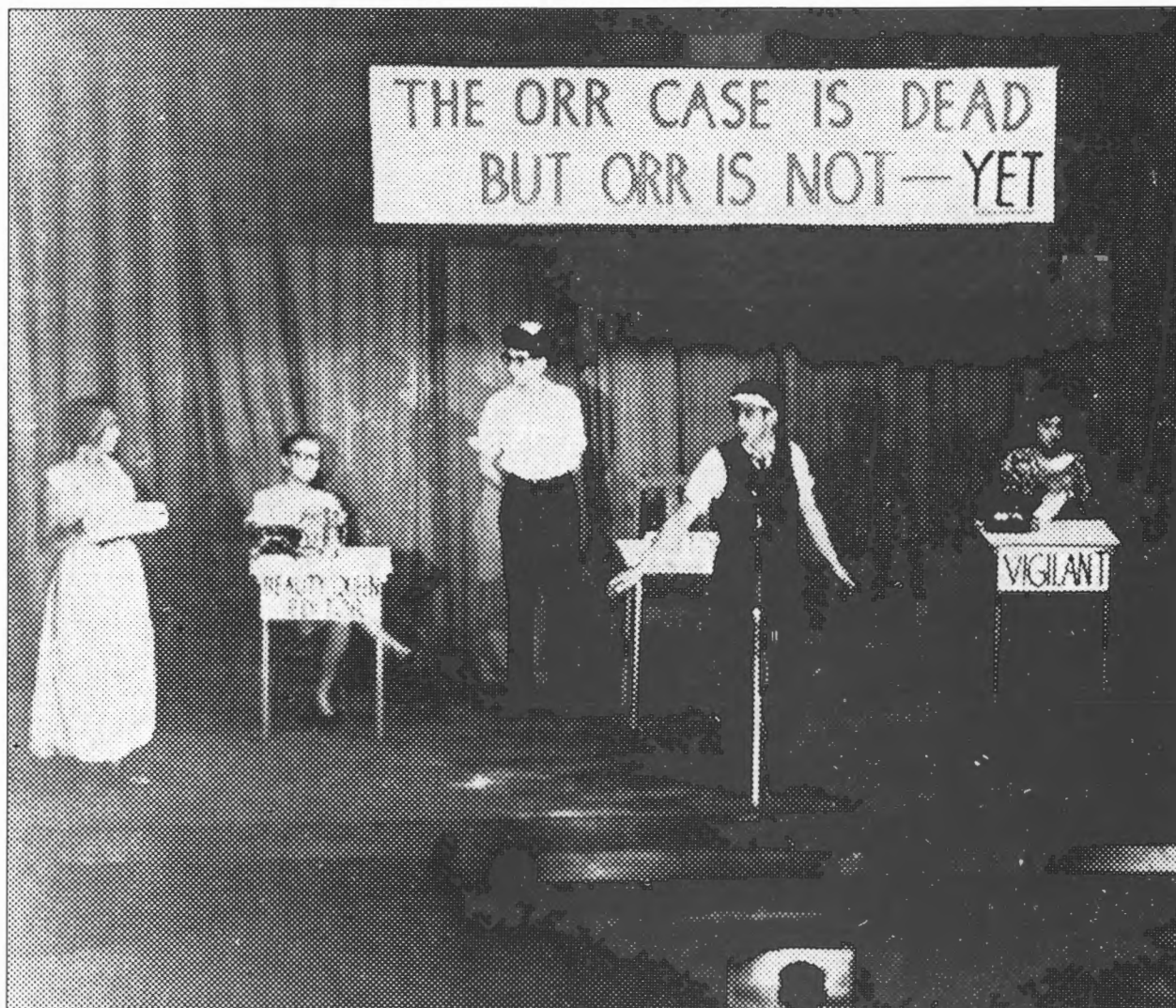




The popular idea of what went on at Old Nick parties. Bruce Dowse and Margret Wright are the participants.

Togatus introduces the Union to freshers, 1959: fun, booze, rorts, radicalism, sport, and a little Christianity (obscured) and literature (dropped to the ground).





Beetnick was one of Old Nick's most successful revues.

Above: The 'ballet girls', Gay Overton, Rosemary Pearce, Jan Hatsell, Gwynneth Rees, Jill Manning, Sue Phillips, Jo Lloyd, Cecily Elliott, Di Bretherton.

Left: A skit dealing with the Orr case. From the left, Sally Pedley, Janice Power, Brian King, Stephen FitzGerald, Margaret Cameron.

'Please Don't Conform': the growth of dissent

1959–1965

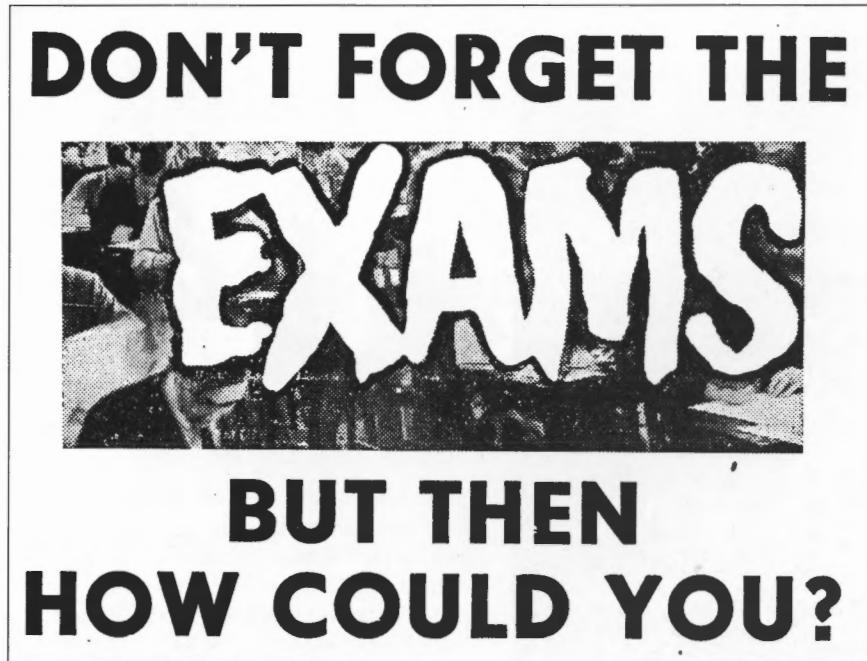
The move to Sandy Bay took time, with 1963 the first year that all students were on the same site since 1944. Perhaps it was this dislocation which dampened student spirits, for there were constant complaints of student apathy. Union meetings were often poorly attended, few people stood for the SRC, and especially in the first few years the Union seemed to lack enthusiasm.



The University in the mid 1960s, when Churchill Avenue was about to become a major through-road. Left, Arts, Physics and Maths, Geology and Geography; centre: the Library, Chemistry, Law and Engineering; Administration under construction; the Union Building right, with behind it, the Vice-Chancellor's lodge, Hytten Hall, John Fisher and Christ Colleges. Many of the Musset huts which first housed departments at Sandy Bay are still in use, lower right corner. Note the absence of any parking problem!

One reason was that the SRC was busy setting up the new Union Building and its services: the Refectory or 'Ref', the mixed shop, the second-hand book stall, an academic gown hire service, a bank and a barber's shop. Two extensions were built with government finance, and the Union became a large business venture, with competent staff to administer its interests. The SRC ran fairly smoothly, so busy with these business ventures and revising its constitution, according to president Peter Hall, that there was no time for politics.

Activism developed gradually among students. Old Nick encouraged a 'healthy left-wing view-point', and that 'scurrilous red rag', *Togatus*, attacked apartheid in South Africa, segregation in America, the White Australia policy, Anzac Day and the RSL, and pushed for the acceptance of homosexuality and better treatment of Aborigines. A demonstration against apartheid in 1964 was the first of many to come. Pleading for articles for *Togatus*, one editor politely urged students: 'Please don't conform'.

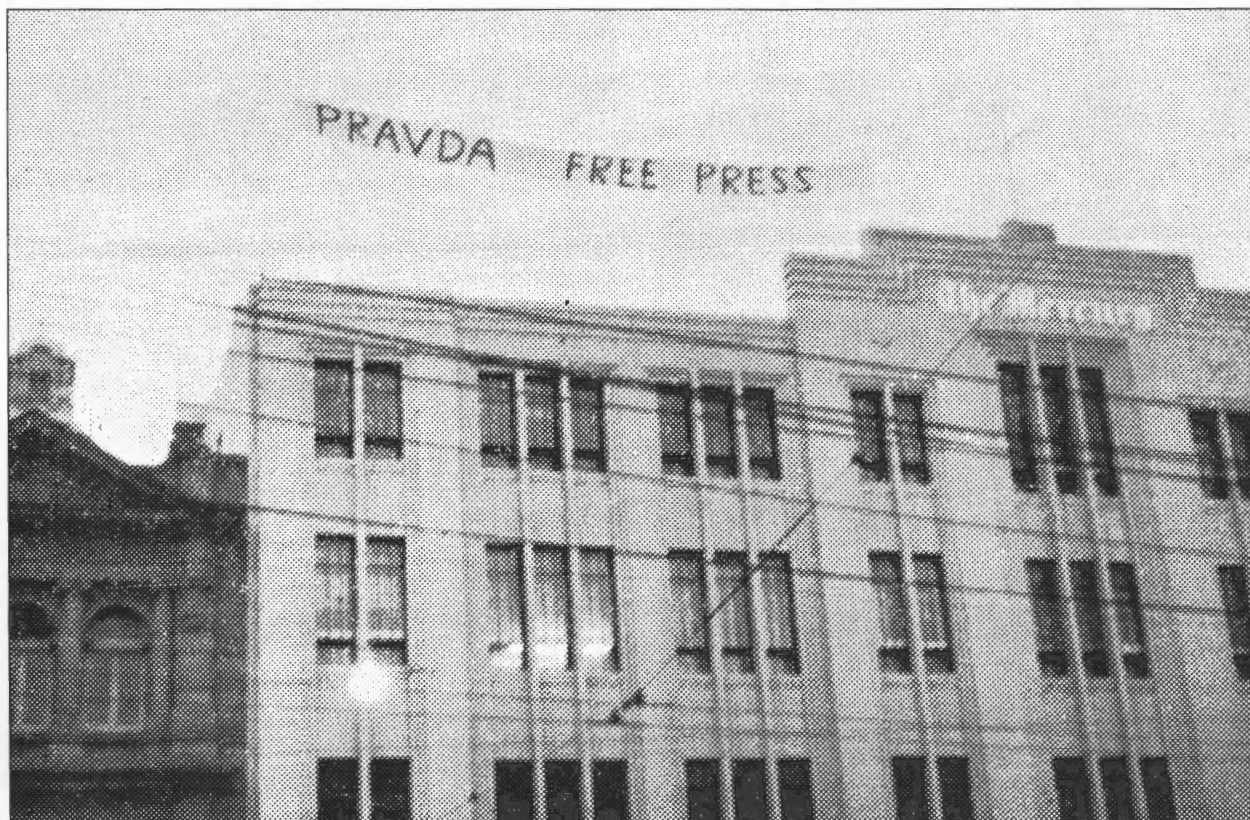
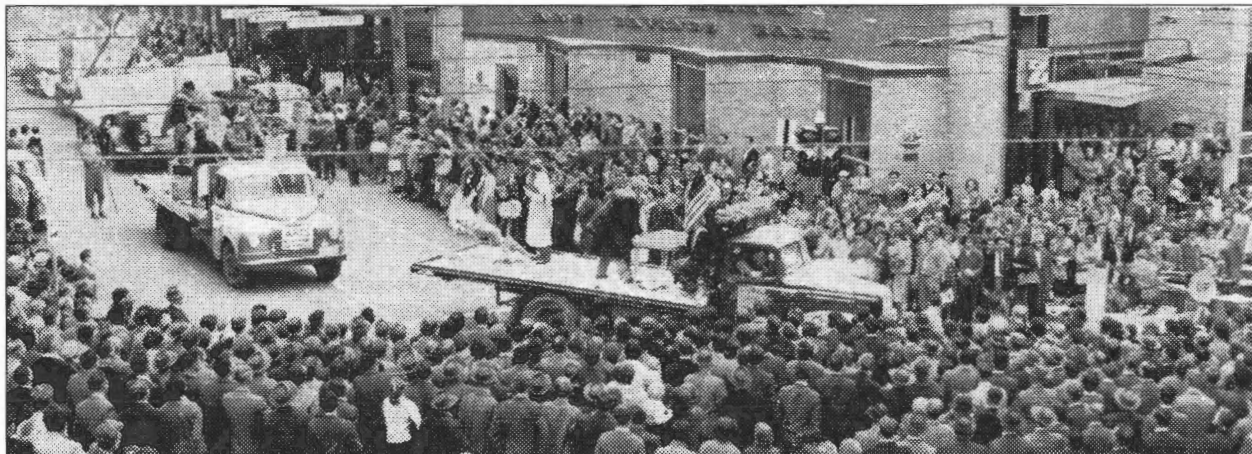


Togatus was in strife after this send up of *Australasian Post* was published in 1965.

One of *Togatus*' helpful hints for fellow students.

Commem parade through crowded streets of Hobart, 1962.

Student Commem prank: for years, students criticised the *Mercury* its right wing views, and in 1961 some managed to hang this sign on top of the *Mercury* building.



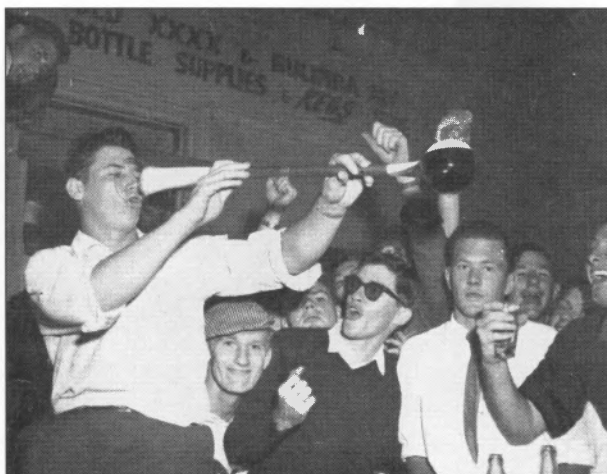
They took his advice, especially in the accommodation colleges, now numbering four. The new Hytten Hall in particular was 'aggressively male and uncompromisingly secular', and college students and others wore the student 'uniform' of corduroy trousers, big sweater, duffle coat and, if male, beard. *Togatus* depicted them drinking vast amounts of alcohol and smoking cigarettes and dope, first mentioned in 1962.

As before, students enjoyed the annual parade, from which the SRC tried, in vain, to abolish flour bombs (the Hytten Hall float was armed with 15 kg of flour one year). Pranks continued, the most spectacular being the theft of the Speaker's Chair from Parliament; one Students' Day when no one was arrested or charged was seen as a failure. In 1962 the first Scavenger Hunt was held as an alternative.



Mild protest: students hand out anti-apartheid pamphlets in a city street, 1964.

Tasmania University Choral Society members join their Melbourne counterparts at inter-varsity, 1964.



The illustration beside the Engineering Society's entry in the 1965 Union Handbook, with the caption, 'The odd yard of ale'.

Tasmania University Boat Club's inter-varsity team, 1964. From left: cox A. Calvert; stroke, R. Jessup; J. Gee, O. Schellenberg, D. Thomson, G. Young, M. Dayan, D. Gannon, T. Whyte.



There were more serious worries, particularly the alarming failure rate, with up to 64% of students failing subjects they had passed at school. The SRC also became interested in social issues, such as the conditions of Aboriginals on Cape Barren Island, and undertook surveys into students' living conditions. But one worry finally passed. The Orr case blew up again in 1961, but by now the SRC and even *Togatus* were less concerned with Orr himself than with the harm the controversy was doing to the University. The SRC was instrumental in persuading both sides to compromise, and a settlement was finally reached. This was something of an anti-climax, wrote the local rep to the National Union; some students felt cheated of their favourite cause.

Sounding equally serious was the dramatic arrest of the SRC president, Tony Manley, in Jakarta in 1962: he was suspected of conspiring to assassinate President Sukarno with, it was rumoured, a gun disguised as a camera. However, he was released after questioning and returned home unscathed.



Old Nick members enjoying themselves:

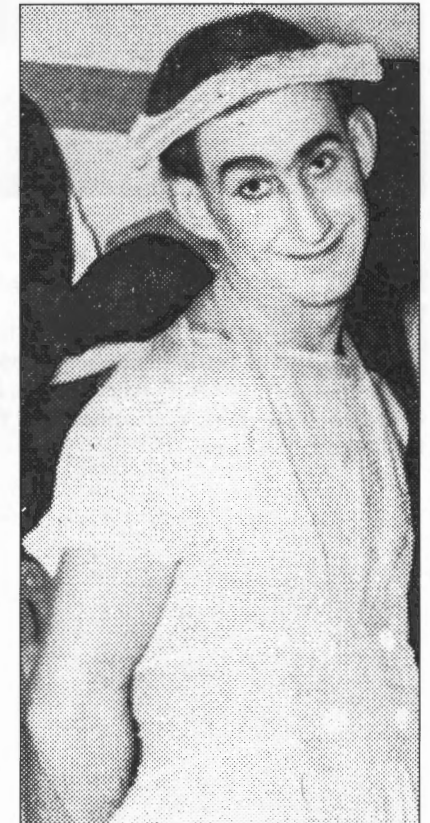
Above: Scene from the play *Lysistrata*, with the caption: 'Athenian magistrate (Charles Calvert) expresses delight in the rape of the female choragos (Anne McDonald) by a Spartan soldier (John White)'. *Togatus* used this photo for years to illustrate any kind of debauchery, from SRC infighting to University Council behaviour.

Above right: Trio from the Men's Kick in the 1964 revue *Vote No* — Rodney Thurley, Grant Hannon, Bevan Rees.

Right: A highlight of the season for Old Nickers was taking the revue to Launceston, and the 1965 cast and crew (*Infra Dig*) are clearly enjoying their visit. From left, as accurately as possible: Ivan Ackeroff (joke) Saltmarsh, Phyllis Burns, Peter Bloomfield, Mick Maddock (later Adam-Smith), Wendy Overton, Bil Dowd, Simon Hirst, Rags Phillips, Bev Moore, Julie Costello, James Alexander, John Vanderberg, Peter Conrad, Tim Thorne, Gladys Wilson.



Togatus published the news of Tony Manley's arrest in Indonesia beside this photo of him appearing as an angel in the Uni Revue.



The heyday of activism

1966–1972

The year 1966 began with the comment that the Union had 'never been quieter'. This did not last. The next half-decade saw student protest widespread round the world, and though Tasmanians did not actually take over their campus or riot, they played their part in the general movement.

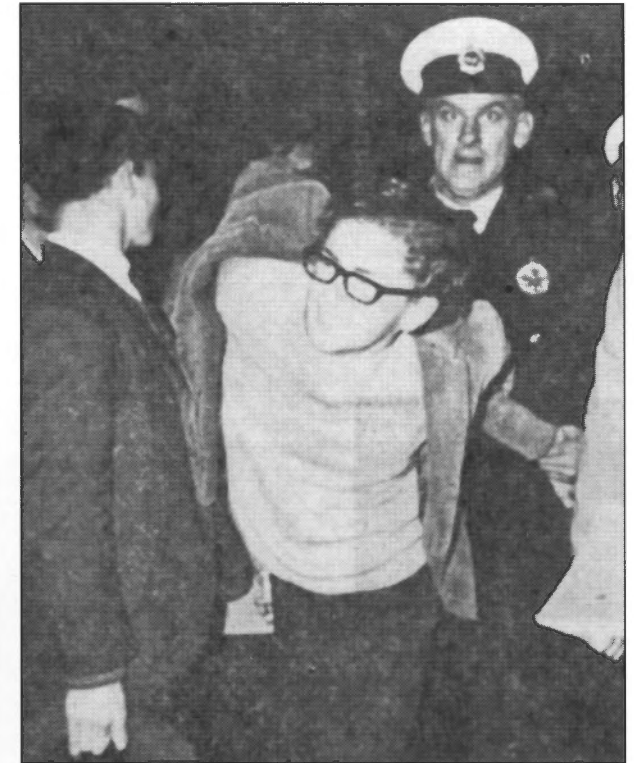


Protest against National Service at the Department of Labour and National Service, 1969. Jo Beams under arrest.

Gowned students (Jack Lomax and Bob Crosthwaite) hand out pamphlets on the National Day of Protest against sending conscripts to Vietnam, Hobart, 1966. The SRC was pleased to state that the Hobart protest was the most orderly in Australia.



On the whole, the SRC was less concerned with protest than with running ever-expanding student services, and took its task seriously. The Ref, Mixed Shop, bank and barber were joined by the university bookroom, a travel office and a child care centre, and student counsellors. The SRC organised visiting speakers, Union tutorials and a staff-student co-operative (both short-lived), a fine arts committee, weekly films, Union Nights involving bands and drinking, cabarets, folk nights, concerts, debates, and classes in tie-dyeing, jazz ballet and so on. Money was raised for charity, especially for starving Biafrans. There was money available; John White, president of the Societies Council, recalled providing money for the Mickey Mouse Club to bring Billy McMahon MP as a speaker from Melbourne. Not surprisingly, rather than radical leaders, presidents tended to be efficient administrators, notably Kelvin Scott, president from 1969 to 1972. Even so, a president stated that one particular Union activity was 'very successful' with only one broken window and the disappearance of nineteen dozen glasses.



This and the photo on the previous page depict students being removed by police: for years *Togatus* used the photo above to illustrate police brutality. There was other violence, for some students were roughed up by police, and one was hit by a soldier's mother wielding a handbag.

Togatus gave the third photo the caption, 'Denied effective participation in government students are forced into civil disobedience'. From the expression of the girl at left, protest could be enjoyable. At left: Robert Smith, Jo Beams, Mendel Tillema.

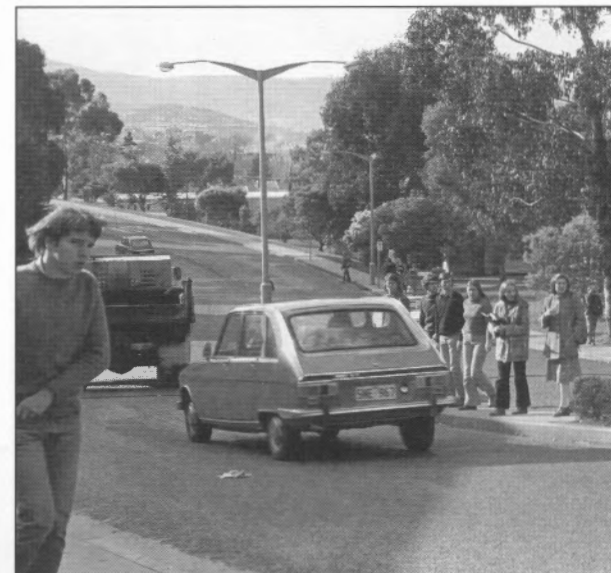
Few women were elected to the SRC, and this, as well as other chauvinist activity — Miss University quests, an Auction of Women, 'Bird of the Week' and much female nudity in *Togatus* — encouraged some women to start a Women's Liberation group. Women's Lib, other groups such as Students for a Democratic Society, the Vietnam Action Group, and a succession of left-wing editors of *Togatus*, were instrumental in raising student consciousness. *Togatus* in particular aired ideas about the Vietnam War, the environment, pollution, nuclear power, racism, the Aborigines, drugs, sex and social change. Other influences were directives from the National Union to join in national student protest; Vietnam War news coverage on TV every night; and other TV reports of student riots overseas.



Looking like a well-scrubbed choir boy, campus radical Nick Beams hands six tomatoes to the Governor, saying: 'Sir Edric Bastyan, I present you these six tomatoes as a symbol of the kind of regard with which your office is held'. The Governor is coping with aplomb, though a woman to the right looks appalled.

Anti Vietnam War protest leaves the Union Building on its way to Franklin Square, 1972.

In 1966 students joined a protest against the Vietnam War, a 'Work-Out' to demonstrate the plight of education, and a protest against apartheid. Over the next few years there were well-supported protests against conscription, the Vietnam War and apartheid and in favour of Aboriginal land rights, and students became used to marching from the Union Building to Franklin Square, holding placards and shouting slogans. The local situation also resulted in protest, especially about the major road which divided the Union Building from the rest of the campus. Years of lobbying for change (such as an underpass) had failed, so students held sit-ins in 1970 and 1972, partly genuine protest and partly an excuse to gather round the barrel in the centre of the road and engage in a favourite student sport, 'cop-baiting'. There were also Teach-Ins, land rights vigils, aid to draft resisters, and help to the United Tasmania Group in its fight to save Lake Pedder. There was some conservative reaction, but it was heavily outweighed by radicals. Even so, many students took no part in protests, and throughout even this period there were complaints of student apathy.



As the road became more heavily trafficked, crossing it was a danger.

Students block the road outside the Union Building, 1972.

There was also dissatisfaction with the University, particularly with lecturing standards, assessment by examinations, course structures, and the English Department and the Education Faculty, which the SRC demonstrated through surveys.

As usual, students were lively on Students Day (now entirely separated from Commem, to the relief of the administration). The traditional parade was not always held, and there was more interest in pranks, such as painting an extremely life-like crack on the Tasman Bridge; the chariot race, first held in 1969; the Iron Man and Cast Iron Virgin competitions; and the Scavenger Hunts, where celebrities such as a bishop and an ABC announcer were kidnapped and one year four MTT buses were 'bus-napped'. There were usually arrests and once a most enjoyable 'Battle of Churchill Avenue' with the police. There was also excitement when students established a world record for throwing and catching eggs in 1971.

Protests about the road through campus, 1972. The driver of a truck, incensed by the road being blocked, tried to drive through the crowd at the protest and was only just stopped from doing so by police; students set fire to tyres on the road.





Declaring the Union Building a safe haven for conscientious objectors who did not want to serve in Vietnam, about 1969. John White gestures to a nameless conscientious objector, with Jerry Fabiny and Sue Hope behind, and the torsos of Ken Newcombe and Marte Stojkavic.

Societies Council, 1968: the growing number of societies made for full meetings. From left, clockwise: -, Helen Gee, -, Rod Scott (standing), -, Merriloy Bennett, Austra Rozensteins, -, Brian Connor, -, James Alexander, Louis Diprose, 3 unknown, Prue Nightingale, John White, 3 unknown, David Henty, Lyn Cox, -, -.



Overcrowding in the Ref was a severe problem in 1966, and the SRC lobbied for some time before it received funds for extensions. Patti Warn sits left.



On the whole, compared with other places, the Union came through this era reasonably unscathed. Despite 'inevitable clashes', the SRC was careful to maintain 'a degree of understanding' with the university administration, and though *Togatus* reported that riot bars were being built at the Administration Building, they never had to be tested.

SPECIAL UNION MEETING

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 7.45 P.M.

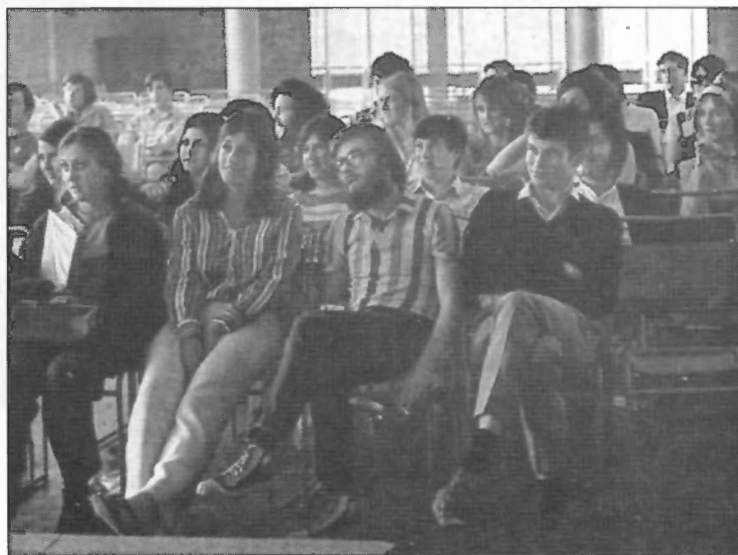
IF YOU WANT

COMMEM DAY

YOU MUST VOTE "YES" FOR RESCISSION

WITHOUT NOTICE OF THE POSSIBILITY, A UNION MEETING CONVENED TO DECIDE ON THE
WORK-OUT, VOTED TO "SACRIFICE" COMMEM DAY TO THE WORK-OUT.

Advertisement for a Union Meeting: would Commem Day be sacrificed to those who wanted a Work-out to highlight education needs, or could the Work-out be held on another day?



Two sides of Union meetings: below, a 1972 meeting with a sea of faces and various hands raised in favour of a motion, probably about Vietnam. In the crowd seem to be Michael Denholm, Duncan Kerr, Helen Wessing, Jack Lomax, Nick Beams and Christine Milne. Left, a quieter meeting for which the Yearbook gave the caption: 'The Union: Frightening or feeble?' Most people are Old Nickers, probably dragged from their table in the Ref to make up a quorum. From left: Barbara Kemp, Jean Hyndman, Sue Hartigan, Val Schier, Steven Meredith, Clare Cowling, Kevin Scott, Margie Miller, Tom Banks, Vicki Baxter, Richard Howroyd (front), rest unknown.

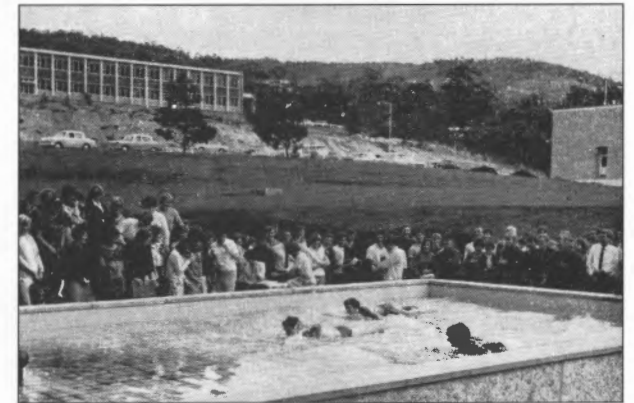


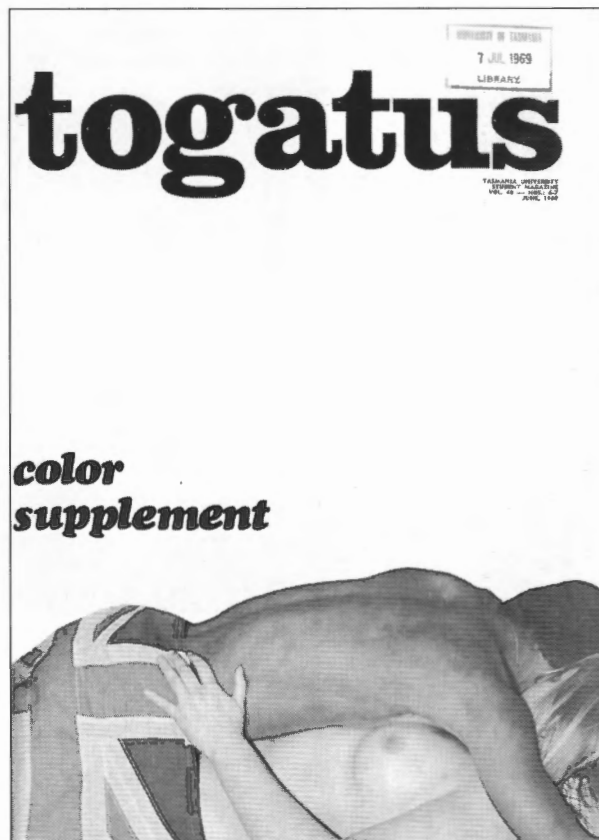


Commem parade activities. Above, 'One of the more subtle floats in the parade', 1967; left, another entry which successfully outraged the public, with Geoff Little carrying the cross. Below left, Jane Franklin girls in the 1970 parade.



Below right: Students' Day prank, 1966: 'swimming races' in the very shallow, ornamental pool outside the Arts Building. (The grassy slope behind was the site for the Stanley Burbury Building.)

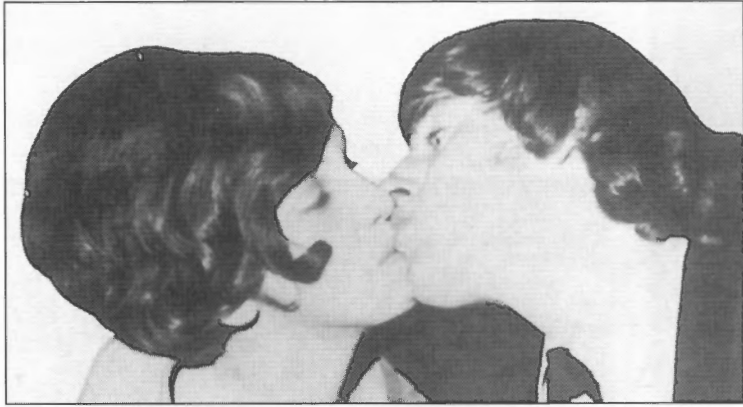




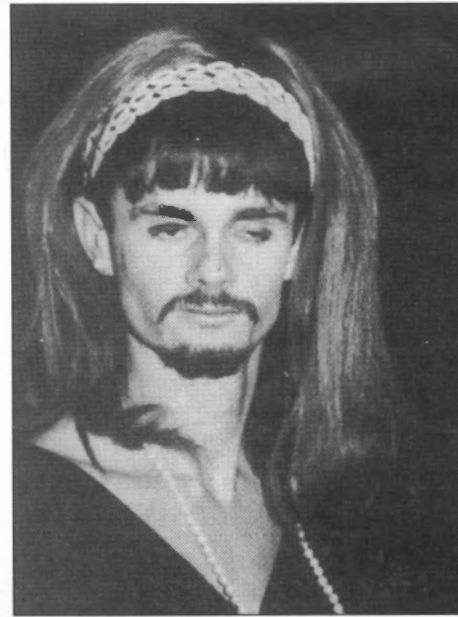
This 1969 cover of *Togatus* caused uproar, and copies were seized by police. It is hard to say which outraged the public more: female nudity, interracial relations, or the use of the Union Jack. The couple were Salleh, the editor of *Togatus*, and a 'well-known uni bird'. The next issue of *Togatus* advertised itself as Pure White.

Sexism rampant: left, Miss Freshette 1968, Irena Mrozowski; and right a *Togatus* 'Bird of the Week', 1969 (Renate Reinhart).





The 'Scandal page' of the 1970 Yearbook featured Alison Pillinger and Peter Reardon (above), and the Union Ball (below).



Drag Balls were fashionable at the time. Above left, luscious brunette (Dennis Brown) at the Royal Drag Ball, 1970. Right, John White, later a well-known politician, spruiks at the microphone (with Vietnam Moratorium posters in the background). John Honey is the compere.



Smiles and laughter: the women's basketball team, 1967.

The University of Tasmania Football Club inter-varsity team, 1966, winners of Division 2. Back: Jim Laver, Bill Donovan, Neil McKinnon, Roger Baird. Third row: Ken Atherton, Eric Kulakauskas, Robin Barnes (trainer), John Fitz, Chris Aulich, Gerard McPhee. Second row: 'Spud' Oakley, Trevor Ward, Richard Davies, Michael Walker, Michael Kerin, Maurice Wenn, Rod Hayes, Richard Cerny. Front: Nigel Stanley, Rodney Radford, Brian England, Ray 'Razor' Crocker (captain), Heinz Fickler, Phil Sowter, Michael Wadsley. The trip was wonderful, recalled Jim Laver. As was usual with IVs, the team travelled to the mainland on the *Princess of Tasmania*, half of them illegally, sleeping on the floor of cabins. The main football universities like Melbourne were in Division 1, and Tasmania did well to defeat universities like Monash in Division 2.



Old Nickers in action once more.

Right: Voluptuous scene from the 1969 revue *Flood*: Barbara Kemp, Robert Smith, Vicki Baxter.

Below: Cast of *Casinova*, 1968, on the Ref steps. From left: Steven Meredith, Karen Clark, Robert Smith, Claudia Schwanke, Rhett Knight, Diane Franks, John O'Halloran, Charles Wooley, Geoff Little, Peter Reardon, Lorraine Oakes, Margie Miller, Vicki Baxter, Pat Harrison, Angela Carter, Leeanne Hughes, Clare Cowling, Marguerite Hamilton, Chris Calver, Ray Burnett, Buck Williams, Sue Hartigan, Fred Rawlings, Jim Mayne, Linda Rouse, John Lachowicz, Marita McCann, Graham Round, Linda Gamble, Philip Barnard, Janet Thompson, Jill Saunders, Sue Freeman, Chris Black, Andrea Pentecost, Greg Farquhar, John Tarrant. Most members became teachers and public servants, but they also include a publican and a television journalist.

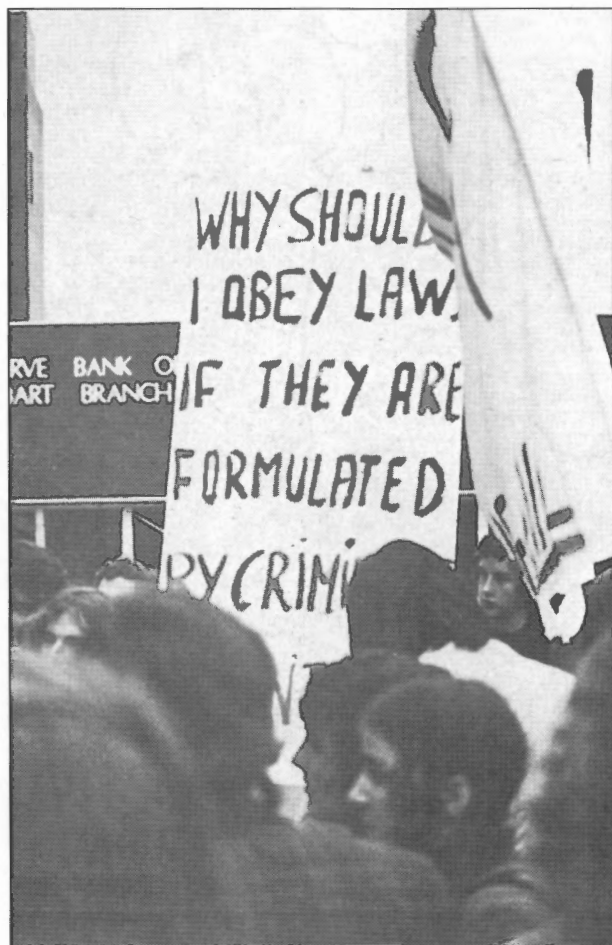


Publicity for the 1968 revue, *Casinova*. Back: Leeanne Hughes, James Alexander, Anda Isaks, Margie Miller, Greg Farquhar (Maynard), Buck Williams; front, Steven Meredith and Lorraine Oakes.

'It all costs money that the SRC should save'

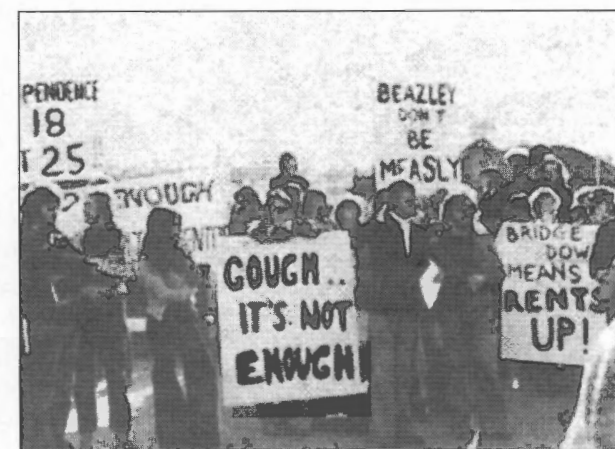
1973–1979

Julian Amos, a very capable president, left the Union in good shape in 1973. The SRC was running smoothly and there was real progress in providing services, with a doctor, a housing service where the Union leased accommodation to students, cheap photocopying, vending machines, a printing service, accident insurance, and a full-time Activities Officer organising concerts, visiting speakers and tuition classes (called 'learning exchanges', in the jargon of the time). The Union was financially viable and supported a Legal Referral Centre set up by Law students, and the Sports Council encouraged the university to move into general recreation.



When *Togatus* revealed corruption in state politics — the government had been 'bought' for \$29,000 — a demonstration was hatched in the Law Library, and about a hundred students took to the streets. The placard reads: 'WHY SHOULD I OBEY LAWS IF THEY ARE FORMULATED BY CRIMINALS'.

One of the few rallies of the mid 1970s, telling the government that the student living allowance was too meagre. Kim Beazley was Minister for Education, Gough Whitlam Prime Minister, the Tasman Bridge had just collapsed, and one sign is as relevant now as then: 'Independence at 18 not 25'.



Over the next six years this excellent situation disintegrated. Inflation, a poor economic situation, and invariable student opposition to raising the Union fee, as well as apparent mismanagement, meant insufficient income. The Executive Officer, Lindsay Brown, and the Accountant, Rae Wiggins, had run the Union's affairs successfully for years, but in 1974 Rae resigned, and it was prophesied that the Union would never get anyone like her again. This proved true, and for years the Union's trading ventures ran at a loss. There was a lack of interest in the Union: for six years, Annual General Meetings lapsed for want of a quorum; there were complaints that the SRC was given up to in-fighting and good people did not stand for office; many candidates were elected unopposed, and frequent changes in SRC membership meant the average time a student spent on the SRC was ten months. Only 10% of members were women. For the first time, there were serious allegations of corruption. It was a downward spiral: the more disillusioned students became, the less interest they took.



Right: In protest against small TEAS living allowances, students set up a soup kitchen on the Ref steps, 1975. Sue Mackay centre in white top.

Far right: President Bill Bowtell addressing a hostile crowd which thinks the SRC is not treating the Ref workers well, Ref steps, June 1975. Gordon Grant stands left.



The post-Amos period started badly with allegations of corruption, sale of drugs, misappropriated alcohol and lost cheques connected with a Union Ball; the president resigned rather than condone such action. The next president, Duncan Kerr, was praised for holding the Union together through difficult times. Former plans came to fruition with the opening of a Sound Lounge where students could listen to music, and a student-staff co-operative shop (which proved unsuccessful), but expansion meant financial problems, and the SRC had extreme difficulty in persuading students to accept a fee rise. *Togatus* printed a song with the chorus, 'Oh, it all costs money that the SRC should save'.

The next couple of presidents were not very successful in leading the Union through this difficult period. The SRC was criticised for faction fighting and doing nothing for students — not acting in the nationwide protest about student living allowances, and not holding regular Union meetings. A group of students pressed for voluntary unionism, then for a big reduction in the Union fee, and when the SRC tried to economise by cutting conditions for refectory staff, staff went on strike, supported by a mass meeting of students.



Long hair and fiery rhetoric — an impassioned speech by Bob Cotgrove at a Union meeting, 1974, with Gordon Grant standing right.

Crowded Union Meeting, April 1975, on the topic of raising Union fees, but a speaker must have made a joke on this usually solemn topic.



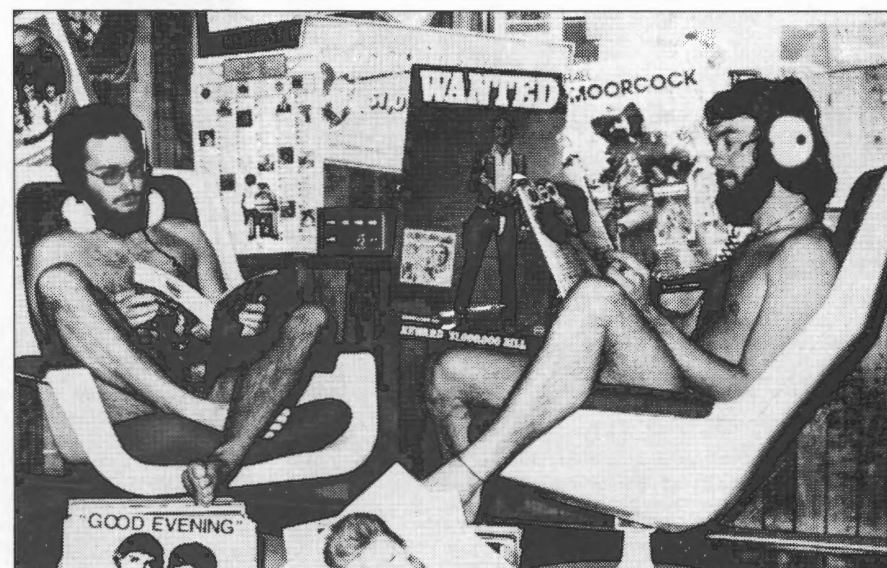
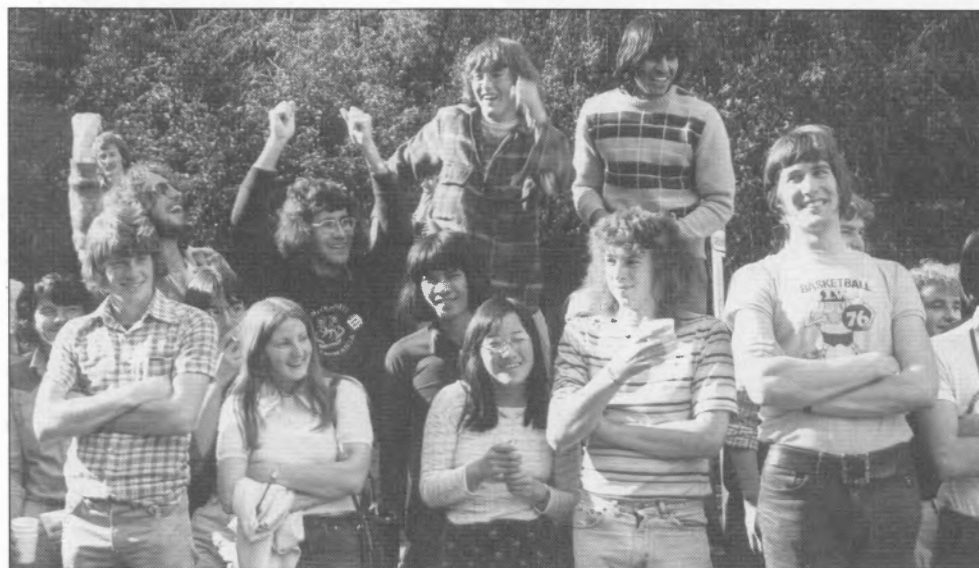
Meanwhile there were concerns that the Executive Officer was becoming too powerful, and a sub-committee looked into the situation. The president resigned over the cost of the investigation, and in a surprise election result, Phil Ryan, one of the movers for a reduced Union fee, became president in 1975. Ryan was a Liberal and all other SRC members were at least left-inclined, so from the start it was the president versus the rest. Competent organisation was impossible, especially as the SRC ignored Union meeting decisions.



Left: Bush Turkey performs on the Ref steps, 1977: Doug Haynes, Mark Whittington, Peer Bourne, Trent Hulme, Keith Keating, Ted Koops, Warren Fairbrother, Greg Hind. Peter did the yahoos, Trent the lagaphone, Keith the spoons.

Below left: Long hair and laughter: spectators at a Union event, some time after the 1976 Basketball IV (from a T-shirt).

Below: Advertising all the excitements of the Sound Lounge, 1976.





Student services in the 1070s: above, the Ref; right, the Bar; below, the Aardvark Society (a group devoted to drinking) in the bar's beer garden.



In 1976 Ryan took advantage of a Union rule which stated that SRC members had to pay their Union fees by 1 April. The University was late sending out accounts, and on 1 April the president himself was the only one who had paid, so he sacked the rest. They continued to function as the SRC and one took the president to court; he refused to attend meetings, and also refused to sign the commission for the next election, which had to be signed by the executive. The election was held none the less. 'Rarely in history have so few stuffed up so much in so short a time with such dependable regularity', wrote *Togatus* of the SRC.

In 1978 the Annual Engineers Commem Day Challenge Race was for home-made aeroplanes, which had to have 16 square feet of wing, an aerodynamic tail, a propeller, three wheels, a braking system, a black box and a pilot in a complete flying suit. Not surprisingly, there were only three entries, from the more technical faculties of Geology, Engineering and Physics. The machines did not, however, have to leave the ground. Pictured is the victorious Geology machine, which had a red and yellow body and wings, red tail and red and black propeller, and pilot Stanley in required attire.



The 'Engies' had won the race for years, so the Geology team is triumphant after the win. They are off to celebrate at the Kingston Hotel, where there were sculling races, eight ball and so much drinking that 'no one but the Geologists could remember who won'.

This was the most polarised of SRC elections, with a Labor team headed by Michael Munday, 'perennial stirrer', and a Liberal team led by Richard Mulcahy. Very few candidates had any SRC experience. Munday won, and immediately acted on several plans which the SRC had had for some time, selling the bookroom, building a bar and finally dismissing the Executive Officer and taking over the work himself, for a basic wage.

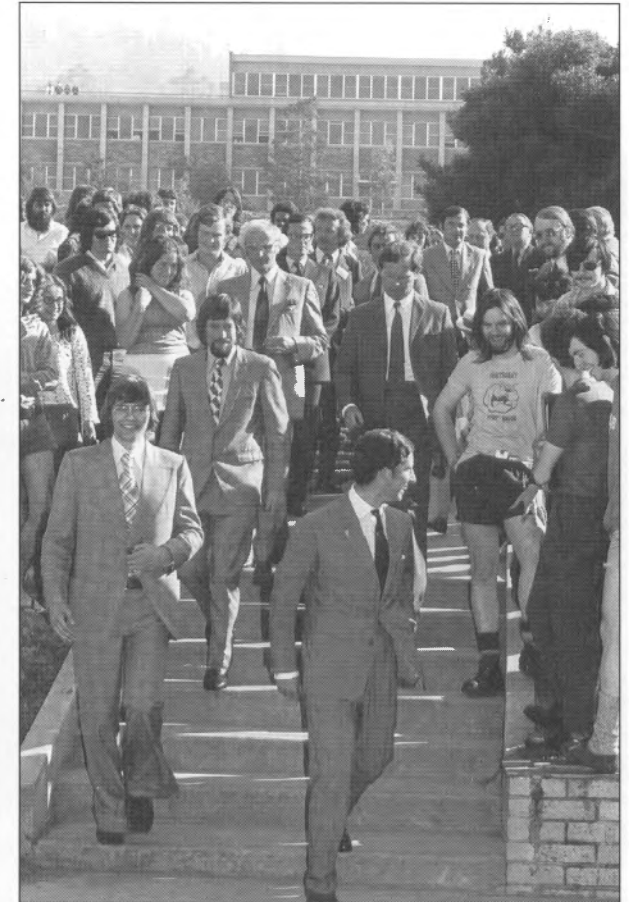


Student humour Mark 1. First Torts lecture, 1979.

Student humour Mark 2. The Christian Union put a banner on the Union Building, 'TRUTH IS A MAN'. Possibilities for change were irresistible to some.

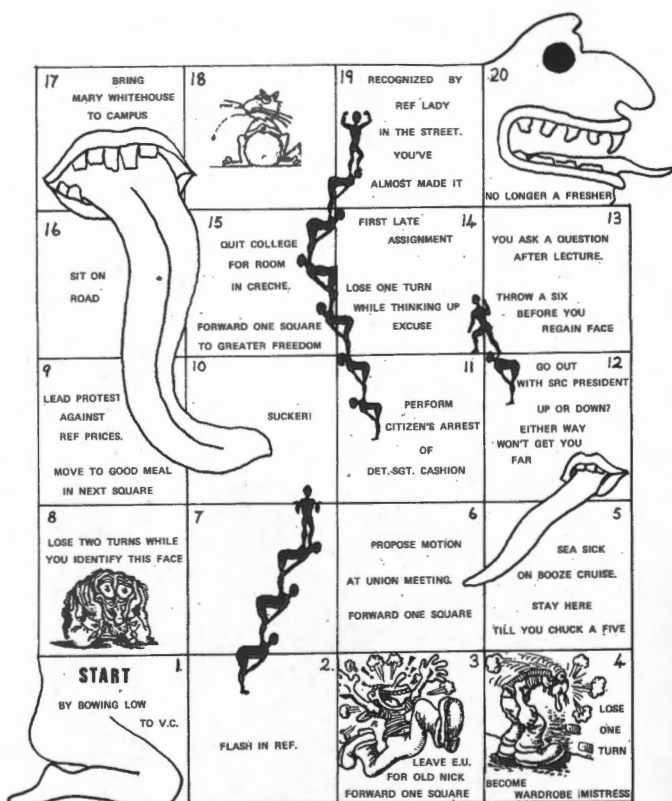


This experiment was not successful. Munday wildly overspent the budget for the bar, its first year was unsuccessful, and all five trading ventures of the Union ran at considerable losses. Since 1973 the Union had made an annual loss, but 1977 was the worst year, and by December the Union was technically bankrupt. Activities were curbed, the SRC was bitterly divided, the Union took a stand against Munday, and finally in mid 1977 he and the *Togatus* editor were forced to resign, when writs were taken out against *Togatus* for an article criticising the drug squad.



In 1974 the Prince of Wales visited the campus, and was shown around by Union president Bill Bowtell, left, and president of the Sports Council Bob Cotgrove, behind Bill. Not all students dressed up to see the Prince, however.

Students outside the Arts building.



In 1974 *Togatus* published a board game for freshers, which shows what was seen by the *Togatus* staff as acceptable actions for students — joining Old Nick, proposing a motion at Union meeting, leading a protest against Ref prices, and so on, rising to the heights of being recognised by the Ref staff in the street.

Opening scene from the Old Nick revue, *Goughspell*, 1974. It began as an election was imminent, and there were jokes that it might have to be hastily renamed 'Snedspell' (Billy Snedden was the liberal leader).



The new president, Terry Ewing, worked an economic miracle, and the Union made a profit of \$82,000 in 1978. Ewing also acted as Executive Officer, but like Munday ran into trouble. Despite Union meetings affirming support for child care, Ewing persuaded the SRC to hand the very successful Child Care Centre to the University, and though in 1979 many activities were restored, Ewing was criticised for lack of commitment and for not consulting the rest of the SRC. Then it was found that the executive had voted him a generous salary of \$16,000 and had not told the rest of the SRC. There was considerable criticism, particularly from Eugene Alexander on the left and Eric Abetz on the right. Finally, in September 1979 an Administrative Officer was appointed, to do the same job as the Executive Officer had done. Though Ewing had managed to rebuild the Union's finances, the experiment of an 'imperial president' had not been a success. Nick Sherry, SRC secretary, commented that of the six presidents in this period, one was good, two were mediocre and three were very poor; and when there had been any policies, they had been disastrous.

The Union was pre-occupied with internal concerns in these years, and had little energy for outside activity. Relations with the University were reasonable, and the state government was thanked when an underpass was built in 1978, ending the road controversy. *Togatus* continued under a succession of left-wing editors, and encouraged appreciation of such areas as the environment, the Labor party against the 'jackals of the right', feminism, socialism and drugs, featuring articles like 'Grow Your Own Dope'. In 1973 Ian Sherrey exposed state government scandals; in 1975 Alban Johnson strongly encouraged support for Whitlam; in 1977 Chris Aulich received government support for a literary issue. *Togatus* encouraged protest, but there were few demonstrations in these years, except for some small rallies against cutting living allowances, against US bases in Australia, and against uranium mining. Increasingly, students joined marches organised by outside organisations rather than organising their own. There was one firm student action, however. Many felt that the national student union wasted money and was dominated by extreme left-wingers, and, against the wishes of the SRC, in 1979 a Union meeting voted strongly to secede.

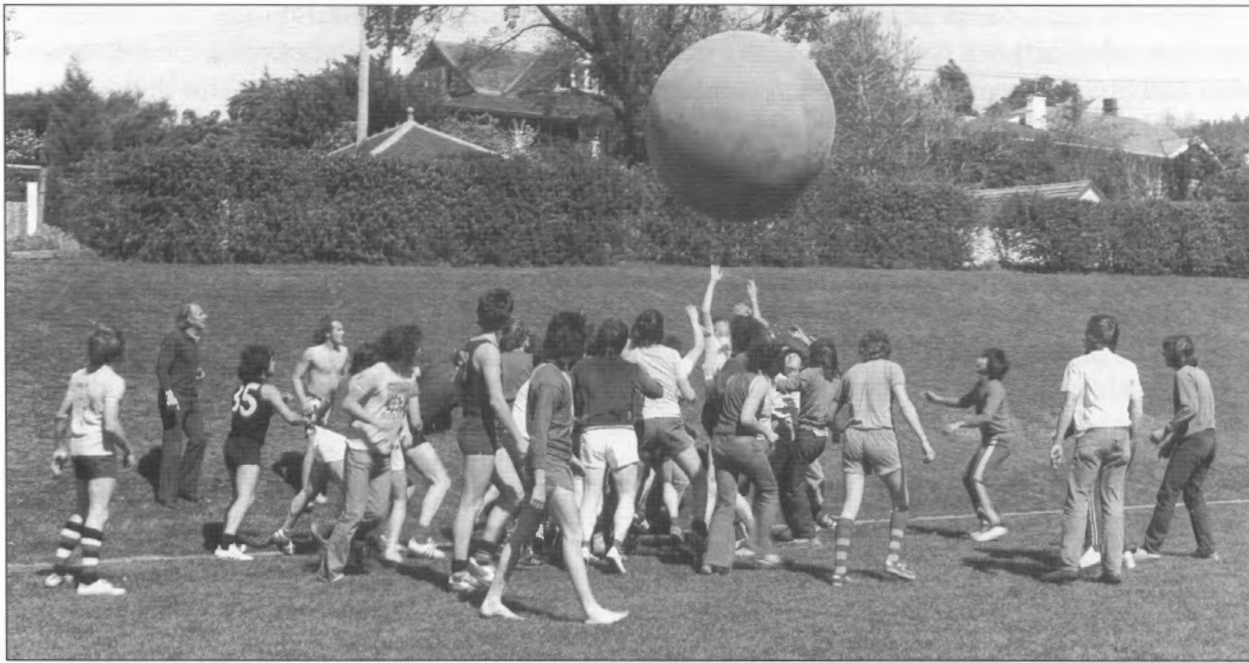


Tasmania University Cricket Club, First Grade Premiers 1977/78. Back: Kevin Connor (umpire), Michael Hortle, Philip Richardson, Simon Allen, Paul Cossum, Roger Clemons, Glenn Richardson, Alan Jones (umpire). Front: Bob Cotgrove, Geoffrey Abbot, Michael Norman (captain), Ray Brown, Garry Collins, Leon Wooton; and Martin Brown, mascot.

Students were also less riotous than before. There was often a chariot race on Commem Day, but most activity took place on the last day of third term, with a Scavenger Hunt, Iron Man and Steel Woman competitions, planking races, a concert and a dance. The University now had about three thousand students, not all from the comfortable middle classes; the atmosphere was more conducive to hard work, which was also encouraged by difficult economic times. One student told *Togatus* that things which did not affect 'me or my pocket' did not interest him; he was only at university to get a degree so he could get a good job; 'why should I care about other people's problems when they don't care about mine?' Many saw this as a typical sentiment.



Archery practice on campus, 1976.



Sport was moving into recreational areas as well as team activities. The Recreation Officer superintends a bubble ball, 1977.

The Rugby boys chose this photograph to illustrate their section in a 1970s Yearbook.



All sorts of activity

1980–1989

The 1980s started dramatically with the new president, a popular leather-clad bikie, charged with taking beer from the bar. He was acquitted, but resigned, 'destroyed by the forces of boredom and purity', as *Togatus* wrote sadly. Meanwhile, under the capable Administrative Officer Bill Shelley, and later presidents David Traynor and Andrew Wilson, the Union's constitution was rewritten and major changes took place. A Board of Management, with a majority of student representatives, managed the Union's financial and trading interests, leaving the SRC to run the more political areas of education, welfare, activities and publications.



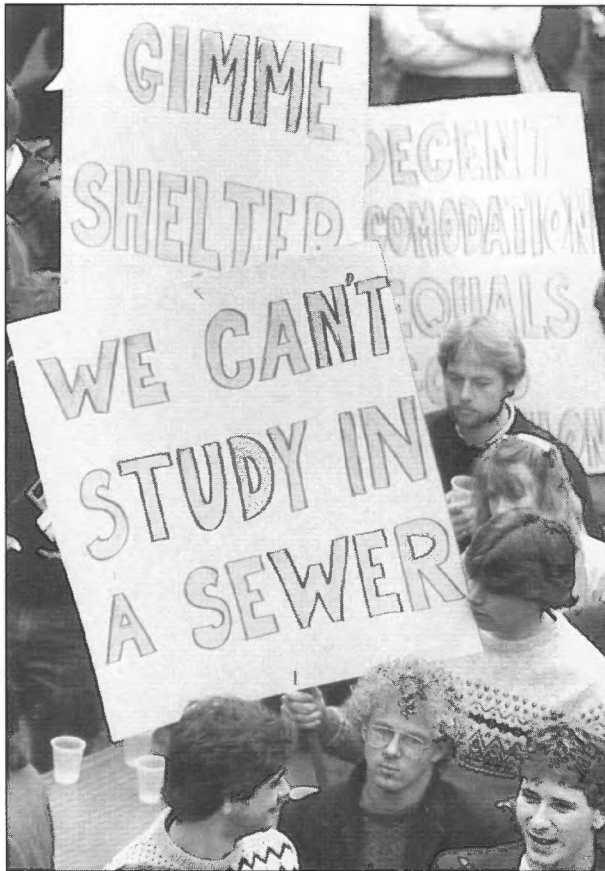
Tasmania University Union Board of Management, 1981. Back: Tony Hocking, Tim Stops, Chris Carswell, Simon Thollar, Graeme Briggs, David Traynor. Front: Bill Shelley, Sue Morrison, Prof. Colin Wendell-Smith (chairman), Andrew Wilson, Prof. Paul Weaver. Absent: Bob Cotgrove, Val Smith, Guy Barnett, H. Legro, M. Hills.

At the same time, much of the old Tasmanian Collage of Advanced Education merged with the University (notably Art and the Conservatorium of Music) while the rest moved north, and the number of Union members grew from 3500 in 1980, to about 5500 for the rest of the decade. Increased demand led to expansion of the Union Building and Union services.



In 1983 the Liberal Club asked Robin Gray to speak at the Stanley Burbury Theatre. Over a thousand students used this as a chance to protest against Gray's policies, particularly against building more dams.

'Up in flames like studentship holders' hopes' read the placard for this 1983 protest. The Education Department first said that it would not necessarily employ studentship holders, then stopped providing them at all. Student protest had little result.



Above: Protest about the student housing shortage, 1984.

Right: Students join a protest against building a pulp mill at Wesley Vale, 1989.

Far right: In 1988 students marched to the ALP national convention at Wrest Point to protest about funding cuts to education.



Andrew Wilson, president for two years, ran the Union so capably that the fee was actually reduced. By the time he resigned the Union had among the best facilities and the lowest fees in Australia. All trading ventures ran at a profit, a Post Office was started, and Activities became the major music promoter in Tasmania, with national bands such as Cold Chisel playing to crowds of two thousand. *Togatus* was lively, with its most widely-read article a page of scandal by the Scarlet Pimpernel or 'the Pimp'. It was feared the length and breadth of the campus, wrote Pimp proudly, and often appeared with sections blacked out. Pimp was nothing but 'lies, innuendo and distortion' said Eric Abetz, and several law suits were threatened.

Protest continued through the decade against threats to conditions: federal government funding cuts to Universities, cuts to tertiary living allowances, and the re-introduction of tertiary fees. Protests against local activities were generally better supported by students: against government attacks on education students, against the state Liberal government's attempt to introduce voluntary student unionism (temporarily defeated in 1983), and, in the university, against cuts to library hours.

Students join in a no dams protest, 1980.

Union president Richard Flanagan, centre, speaks to the media at the Ref steps.

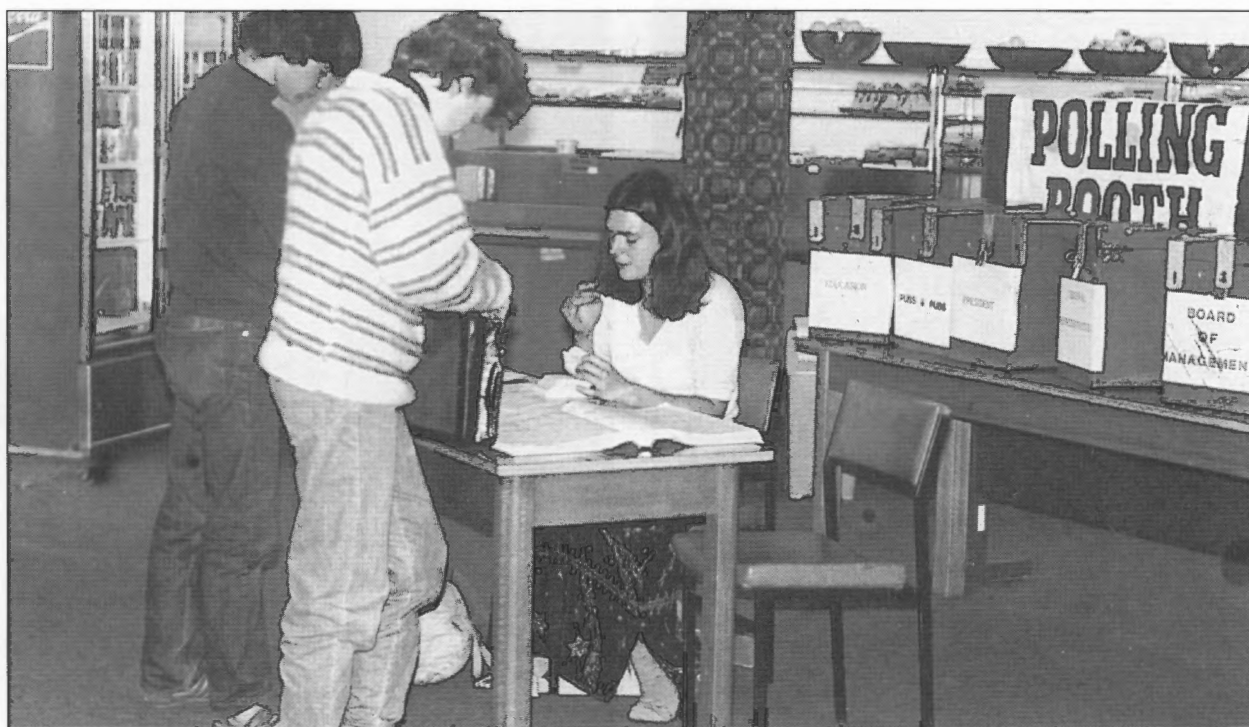


In 1983 Richard Flanagan started his dynamic and sometimes controversial period as president. He was full of innovative ideas, and he and his Council introduced free dental and optometrical checks, a health food shop, a market, a printing department, a hair salon, a second-hand clothes and bookshop, and a bus rebate for northern students. They worked for more student representation on University committees, anonymity in exams, and an ombudsman. Housing was greatly expanded, as Richard obtained considerable government support. More controversially, the SRC stopped the production of *Togatus*, saying it was below standard, but a Union meeting overturned this decision and *Togatus* appeared again.



Students enjoying the amenities of the Sound Lounge, 1983.

Students voting at a Union election, 1981.

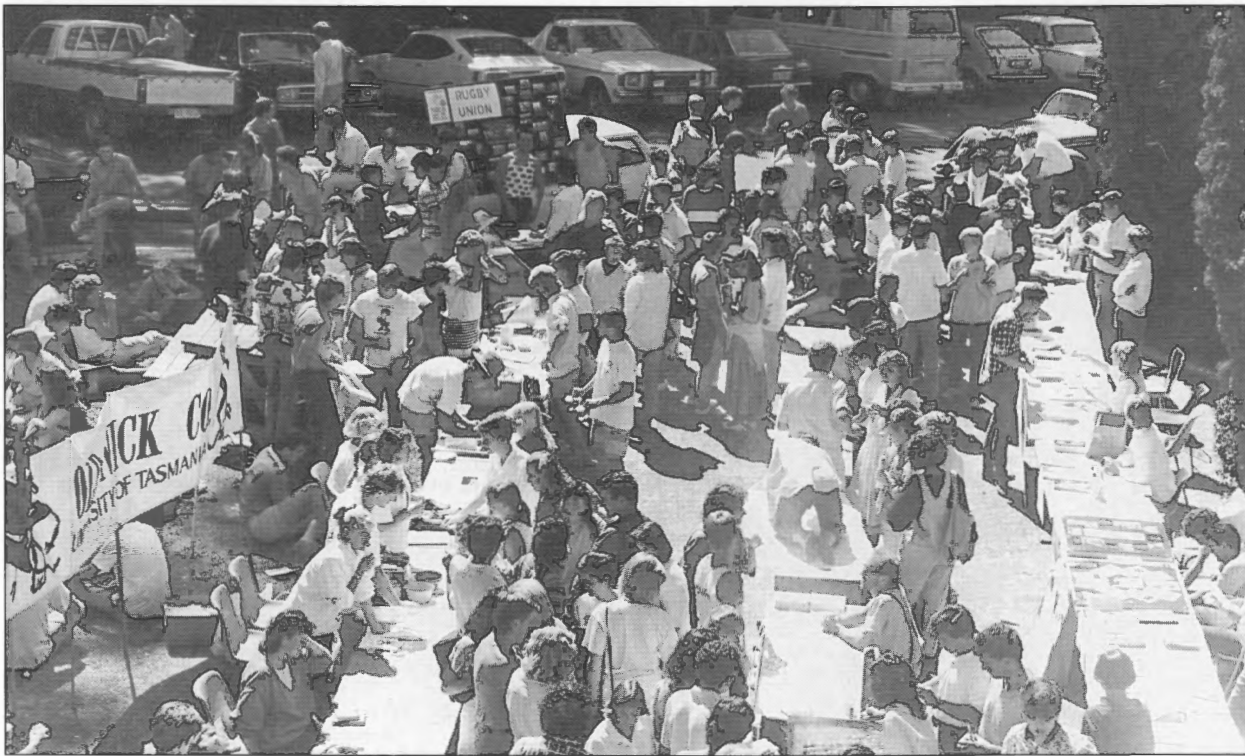


The resignations of Richard Flanagan, due to attacks by other SRC members, and Bill Shelley (who was never criticised in *Togatus*, an extremely rare feat), ushered in a less dynamic period. Services continued to be expanded, especially under Charles Toubert as president, with an Alternative Handbook, a new child care centre, a student loan scheme, a hire scheme for power tools and equipment, assistance for disabled students, and the appointment of a Women's Officer. Toubert was a prime mover in restarting a national students' union, which he saw as vital to co-ordinating the fight against tertiary fees. Nevertheless, there were problems: in 1987 the bar and Refectory made heavy losses, finances generally were rocky, the Union fee rapidly increased, and the SRC was often divided, so its effectiveness was lessened. Toubert prided himself on having an apolitical SRC, and in dealing only with matters which directly affected students. Perhaps as a reaction, left-wing activism grew and Socialist youth group Resistance contested SRC elections, but the campus generally was more conservative, and Resistance received less support than such a group would have done in the 1970s. The strength of conservatism was shown by the sweeping success in the 1989 elections of the far-from-socialist Better Management Team. Unlike the 1970s, the SRC was not generally more radical than the general student body.



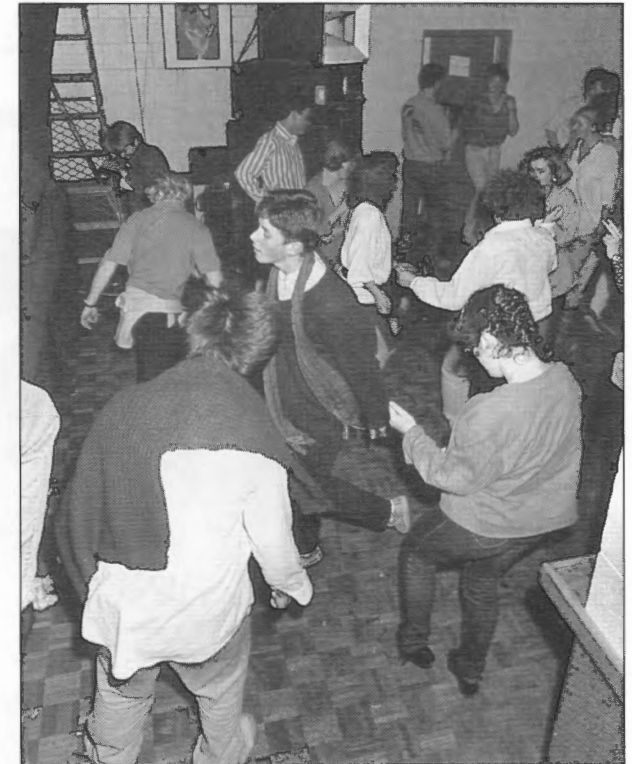
'Chisel at the TUU!!!' is written on the back of this photo. Cold Chisel was one of the best known bands in Australia in 1982.

Societies and Sports continued to be active areas, with about fifty general societies and thirty sports clubs affiliated. Sports ranged from traditional activities like football, hockey and cricket to martial arts and individual areas like orienteering. As there were so many more universities in Australia, inter-varsity success was rare, but Tasmania did win the rowing in 1986, for the fourth time in the Union's history. Another success came in 1982 when the men's hockey team drew with a combined New Zealand universities hockey team, the only game in Australia which the visitors did not win. On an individual level, Bob Cotgrove, SRC stalwart, was manager of the Australian universities cricket team which toured England, and in 1983 the inaugural winner of Sportsman of the Year (sic) was Jane Forest, who won a bronze medal in badminton at the Commonwealth Games.



Clubs and Societies Day in Orientation Week, 1987.

Students celebrating the end of Term 2 at a rage, 1986.



In 1989 Amanda Given became Executive Officer and greatly increased accountability and efficiency, so much so that she won a category of the Businesswoman of the Year award. By 1989 Union finances were once more stable, and the Union ended the decade with a revolutionary step: for the second time in its history, and for the first time since 1941, a female president was elected.



End of Term Night in the Union Bar, second term, 1986. Note the bouncer at rear.

Complaints of overcrowding at Union activities like the Cold Chisel concert seemed justified.



Right: Chariot race entrants, 1982.

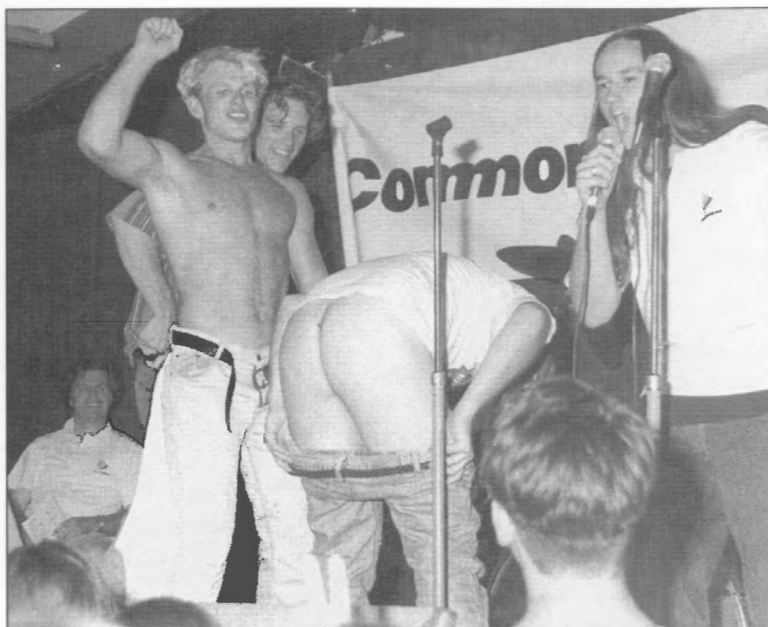
Below: Chariot Race leaving the University, 1980s.
Some bystanders are dressed in plastic bags for protection.





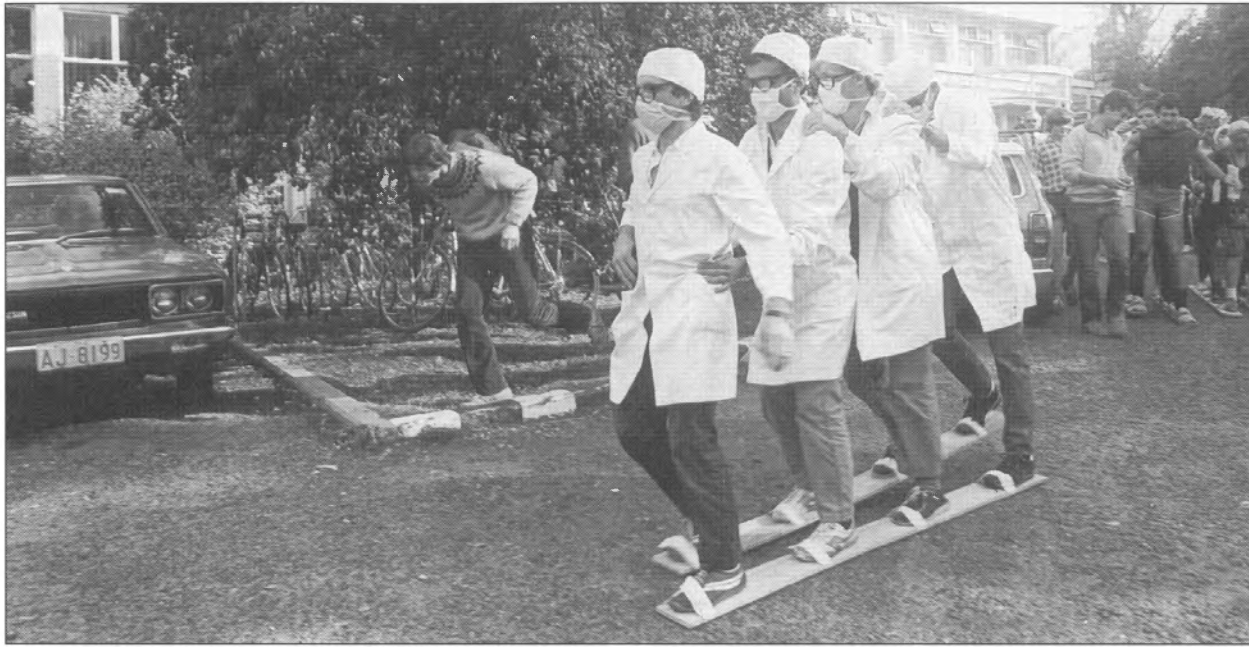
In the 1982 Scavenger Hunt, a member of the *Togatus* staff bound and gagged was worth 75 points. Rebecca Hawkes, *Togatus*' business manager, was bound and gagged twice, 'being dragged protesting loudly and kicking violently into the Union Bar each time', as *Togatus* reported.

'If you thought Union politics was silly how about these photos of Bruce Goodluck, Peter McKay and Peter Hodgman disporting themselves at the Scavenger Hunt' ran the *Togatus* caption, 1984.



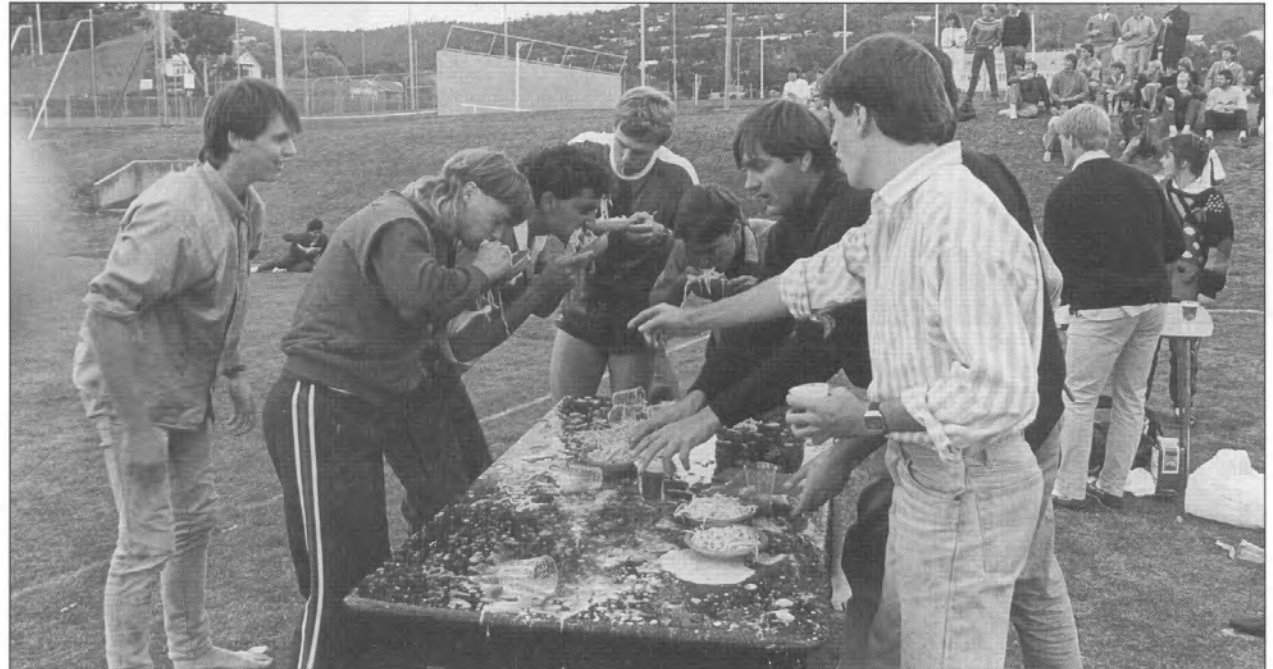
More Scavenger Hunt photos: above, nudity in 1983; above right, either mooning or an egg-carrying race; below right, 1985 scene.





Planking contest, 1984. The team is 'The Sacred Scientists'.

COMEC (Commerce and Economics) Iron Man contest, 1986. This seems to be the spaghetti eating section. Jonathan Jones fourth from left, Rob Hand in striped shirt.





Christ College activity, after it became a mixed college.

Lifting a Volkswagen, a popular Union activity on Students' Day.





Above: the Pimp (see p. 65) complained that the Upper Ref was closed to students, and tried dramatically to force the issue, 1983.

Above left: Indonesian students, 1988.



Below left: Students outside the Arts Building, 1987. Jo Mitchell fourth from left.



Above: The Underpass quickly became used by groups for publicity and graffiti. There was much anger when Hytten Hall was closed in 1980: Caro was the Vice-Chancellor.

Left: *Togatus* enjoyed printing send-ups of other newspapers, and this was the front page photo of the *Saturday Evening Mockery*, September 1982.

Right: Exams must be over!





Above: Rory Ewins wrote a very successful cartoon strip about a character called Ralph the Monotreme for *Togatus* in 1986.

Above left: The judo team celebrates after performing very well at the 1983 inter-varsity. From left: Robert Jak, Anthony Claessens, B. Taylor, A. Buckland, Michael Briers, Mark Bourjau.

Left: Tasmania University Boat Club, IV victors 1986, with their trophy. From left: Jonathan Jones, Craig Newbon, Andrew Palmer, Gavin Wakefield, Craig Rosevear (obscured), Stewart Walters, Richard Sampson.

Diversification and development 1990–1998

Many people commented that in the late 1980s the SRC was 'a boys' club', dominated by Law students and Young Labor members, but this changed in the 1990s. Joanne Flinn, elected president in 1989, had a difficult time and resigned, but she paved the way for a succession of five more successful female presidents in the 1990s. Pravin Ram and Gilbert Astorga also helped to break the stranglehold of Caucasian males.



Student Representative Council, 1995. Back: Daniel Muggeridge (general rep), Emily Warner (Women's Officer), Derek Turnbull (Publicity and Promotions Officer), Alan Rosevear (President Activities Council), Jenny Newman (President 1994). Centre: Jo Skinner (Art School rep), Catherine Miller (general rep), Anthony Llewellyn (President Societies Council), Shaun Thurstans (Environment Officer), Simon Vanderaa (Postgraduate rep), Matthew Lewis (general rep), Sandi Warr (Education Officer), Julie Graske (Clinical School rep), Luke McCulloch (general rep). Front: Carl Moller (Vice-president and President Sports Council), Liesl Petterd (Treasurer), Kate Jackson (President), Matthew Parsons (Secretary), Heather Rich (Welfare Officer).

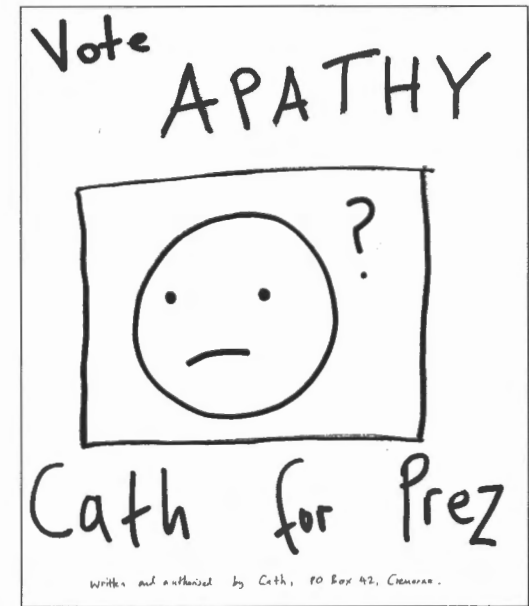
This diversification was extended to other areas. The Union moved to represent the interests of various groups of students, with a number of new committees and officers. The Art School, Conservatorium and Clinical School, away from the main campus, all elected representatives to the SRC, a sexuality officer and environment officer were also elected, and a women's committee was established. Among their achievements were campaigns against sexual harassment; annual Bluestocking Weeks which highlighted women's achievements and needs; a strong campaign for recycling; and campaigns in favour of legalising homosexuality. The Union also became incorporated in 1991.

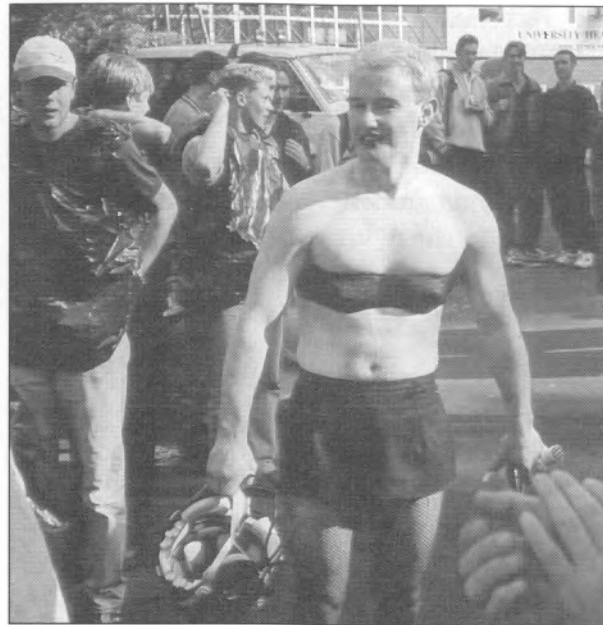


Above: Vice-chancellor Don McNicol opening extensions to the Union Building.

Raising the canopy over the Union Building, 1982.

Apathy finally enshrined as a platform, 1998 election.





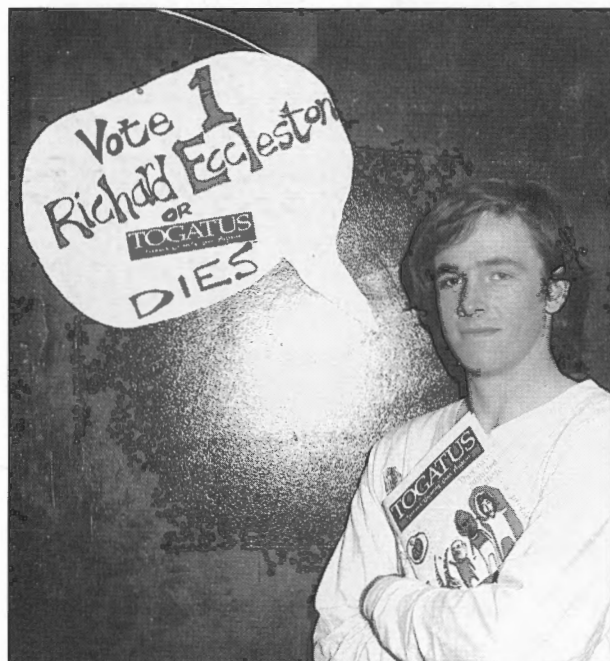
Orientation (far left) and Disorientation (left) Weeks in 1988.

Below: Union heavies at the SRC changeover dinner, 1998. From left: Jonathan Jones, General Manager; Gilbert Astorga, President 1998, and his partner Susan Pullar; Jim Reid, chairman of Academic Senate; Catherine Miller, President 1997; Clare Larkman and partner Bruce Paterson, President 1999; John Donaldson, chairman of the Board of Management.



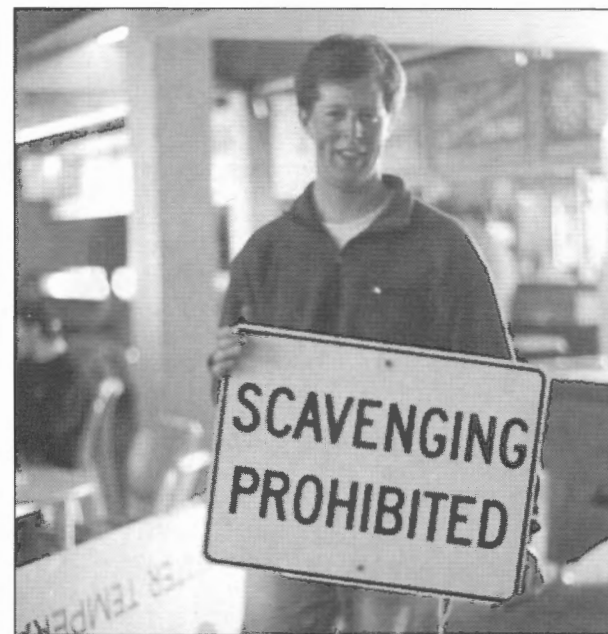
In earlier years the Union had really been an undergraduates' union, as traditionally there had been relatively few postgraduate students. By the 1990s, 20% of Union members were postgraduates, and a Postgraduate Council was formed to look after their interests.

Many other traditional areas expanded their activities; for example, more catering areas were opened, as well as parenting rooms, and a women's room. This was a controversial, step, alleged by some to discriminate against men, and *Togatus* ran a series of letters and articles about the women's room and feminism generally. In these years *Togatus* became more of a general magazine than a student newspaper, and featured articles, poetry, fiction and cartoons by students; in 1993, for example, over a hundred people contributed. *Togatus* also provided thorough coverage of Federal elections, scrutinising platforms for the effect on education.

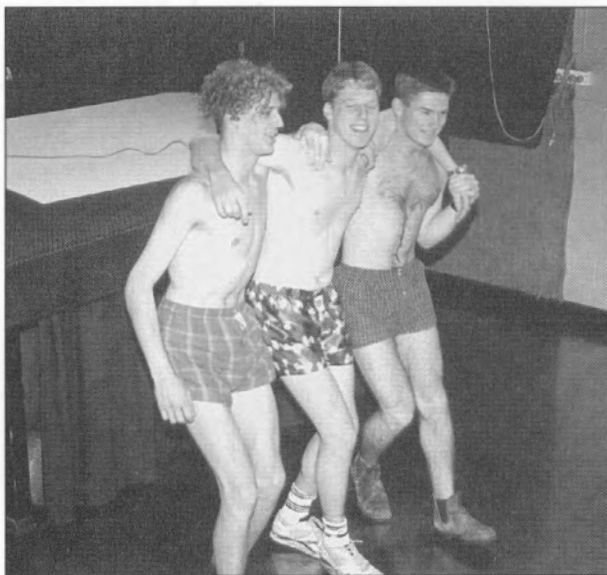


Above: Election flyer for SRC Publicity and Publications officer. Richard Eccleston pictured.

Right: Scavenger Hunt activities.

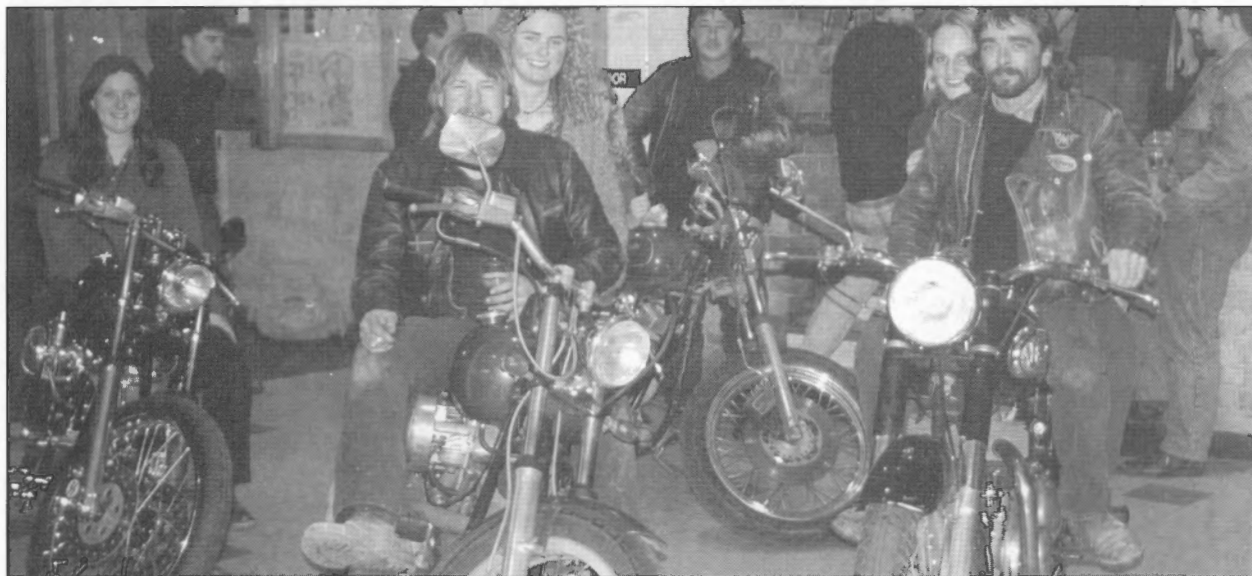


Two *Togatus* editors, Fransisco Ascui and Bruce Paterson, decided that there was not enough scope in *Togatus* for creative output, and with assistance from the Union and the University started *Siglo*, a literary publication for students, printing fiction and poetry in particular. *Siglo* has become extremely successful, a national journal with good critical reviews in major newspapers.



More Scavenger Hunt photos, with Harleys in the Bar. The Maintenance manager was not impressed.

Below: Chariot race 1998.

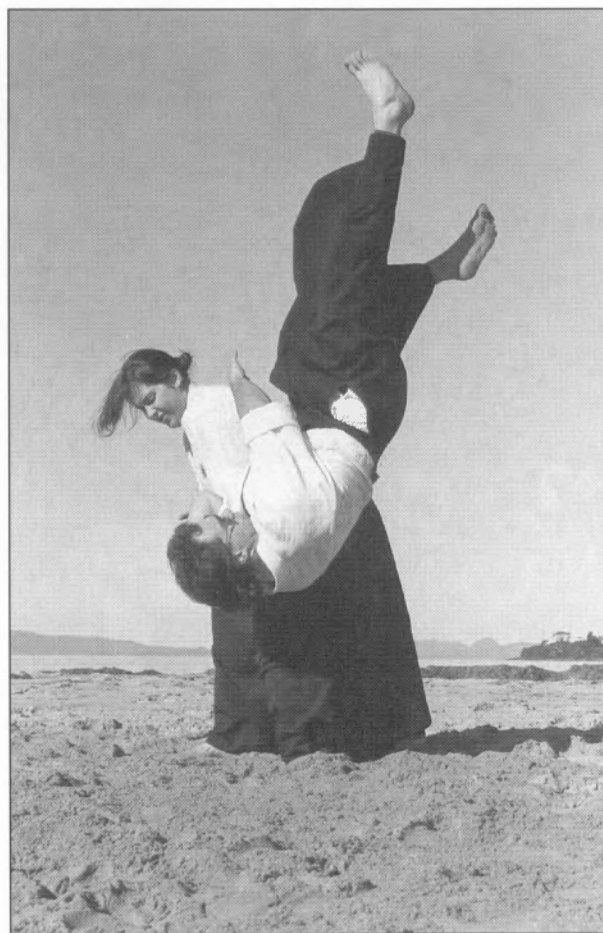
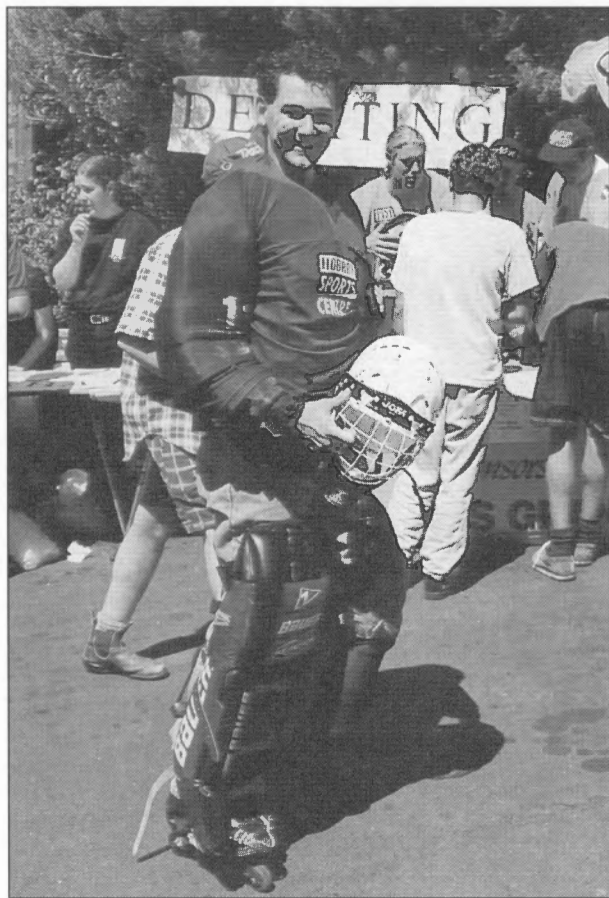


The Union also led student protest, though in many areas it had little hope of victory. There was plenty to protest about, with changes threatened in the 1980s now introduced: cuts in university funding, cuts in tertiary living allowances, the re-introduction of tertiary fees, and legislation for voluntary student unionism in Victoria and Western Australia. National Days of Action were organised, but could achieve little, though an innovative Flanny Day of Action (when students showed their support by wearing flannelette shirts) impressed mainland states. On the local front, there were protests against university decisions to cut some areas like Italian and Classics, change exams and merge libraries; in one memorable protest, Classics students kidnapped the Vice-Chancellor's chair. But though there were some short-term victories, in the long run the University achieved almost all its aims.

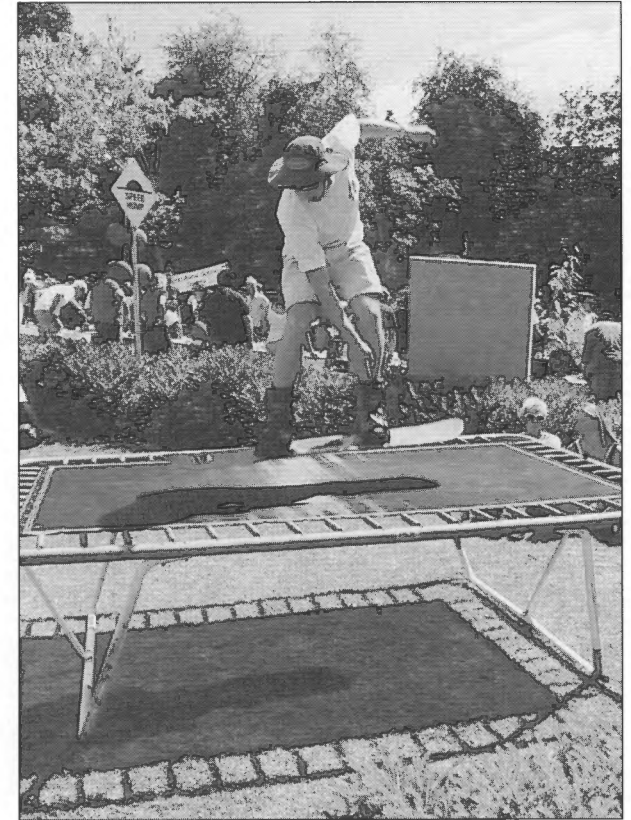


Union activities undreamed of by students when the Union was formed: white water rafting, medieval warfare, in-line skating, aikido, canoe polo.

Why was this? As usual, people complained about student apathy, an intermittent complaint since the Union started. *Togatus* editor Derek Turnbull commented that students in the 1990s had little time for activism; meagre allowances, the necessity for part-time work, a generally difficult economic situation and overriding anxiety about finding jobs meant that people were just too busy. In addition, the cultural climate of the times was less radical. The National Union of Students was criticised as being ineffective, a junket for Labor students; and there was only moderate co-operation with the Students' Association which served the northern university campus. Scandals over inappropriate behaviour in student elections also did little for the Union's image. But, unlike earlier days, most Annual General Meetings did have a quorum.



One of the indicators of apathy is the number of students who vote in Union elections, about 17% in Tasmania, roughly the national average. The Union had some problems in the decade. Infighting on the SRC was intermittently present, as Annual Reports often stated (but seldom about their particular year). The recession of the early 1990s made inroads in trading ventures, and a canopy over the Ref steps was far more expensive than planned. Several changes in general manager did not increase confidence, though Jonathan Jones, appointed in 1997, brought stability and quiet efficiency, according to 1999 president Bruce Paterson. Not all general managers can work with students who are, in theory, their masters, but by the late 1990s the Union seemed to have struck a balance between administrative efficiency and serving the needs of students. Anna Campbell, long-term SRC member, commented that in the 1990s the SRC is less casual, less involved in lengthy debates about international issues, harder working on the whole, and takes its role more seriously.



Another Union activity unknown in earlier days was snow boarding, above.

Left: University of Tasmania team in the 1995 University games in Darwin.

The Activities Council was successful, organising concerts and bands on the ref steps, and annual events such as the scavenger hunt, three-legged pub crawl and chariot race (one year *not* won by the Engineers but by Surveying). Ninety-six general societies served over six thousand students; Tasmania had among the highest percentage of students playing sport, enrolled with one or other of its forty sporting clubs. In 1993 Tasmania hosted the Wild and Woolly Games, catering for six intervarsity outdoor sports, the largest university sporting event ever held in Tasmania. Housing provided about 330 places a year, catering and the bar were successful, and the many other services the Union provided were also successful in varying degrees. The Union did provide many commercial services for students; but was it dominated by this business ethos, to the detriment of looking after students' other interests?

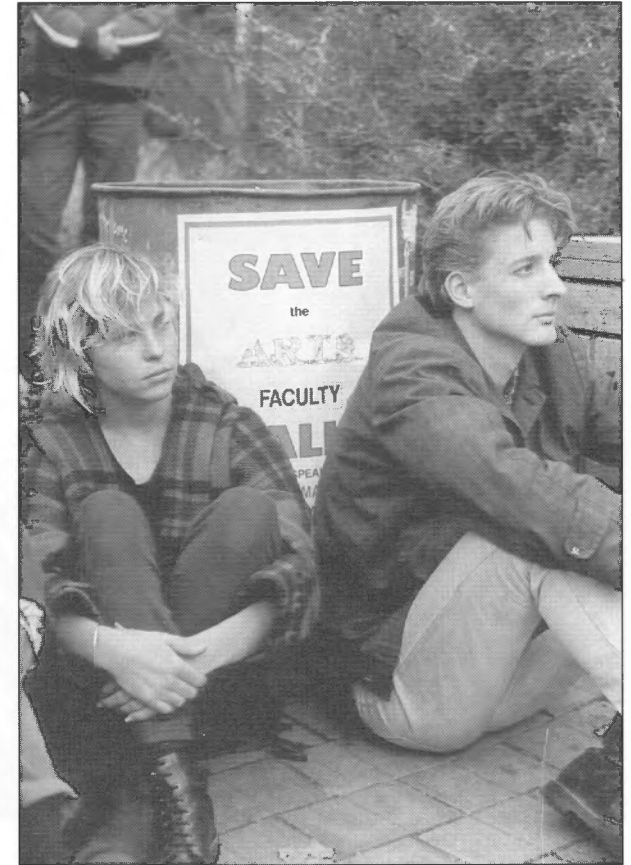


Victorious Tasmania University Rugby Union Football Club reserves team, southern premiers 1996, 1997, 1998. Back: Josh Jones, Simon Hansen, Greg Ramsay, Ben Payne, Aaron Giason, Hamish –, Justin Mace, Adrian Dransfield, Cameron –, Ged McCaffery, Chris Vernon, Vunnie –, Will Hohman. Centre: Mike Radburn (captain) with son Conior, Duncan Simeon, Nick Kinsella, Richard Tsia, Rob Gill, Kelly Cook, Gavin Rahn (coach), Christian Lohberger, John-Paul Cummings II, John McShane, Tony Kube (coach and club president), Andrew Roberts. Front: Jonathan Jones with Isobel and Elinor, Don Snodgrass with Chris, Hamish Rahn, Simon Wilding.

Right: Blues, half-blues and Sports Scholarships awardees, 1995.



By the late 1990s the federal government was threatening to introduce voluntary student unionism, which would lead to, at best, problems for the Union, and, at worst, closure. The threat encouraged student unions to increase services and publicity, so students knew what they were receiving for their fee, but as the Tasmania University Union neared its centenary, the need to prepare for possible voluntary unionism was crucial. Two considerable achievements in 1998 did show the power of the Union, however. At the beginning of the year the price of beer in the bar was reduced; and at the end of the year, largely due to lobbying from the Union, the University agreed to review its decision to close areas of the School of Art.



Above: Save the Arts Faculty rally.

Left: Protest against Dawkins' cuts to university funding, 1990.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION...

HOW TO MAKE
HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY!



...SOMETHING WORTH FIGHTING
FOR.

8th May 1997

A Joint Student and Staff Action

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Authorised by Gilbert Ristorga and Catherine Miller
for the National Union of Students and Tasmanian University Union



The Tasmania University Union has grown from a small group serving 35 students, to a large business enterprise looking after the interests of about 7200 students. Its century of existence has seen many continuing problems: the threat of voluntary unionism; student apathy; infighting on the SRC; difficulty making an impression on the university administration. If the Union concentrates on providing commercial services, it is criticised as too commercial; if it is more interested in students' political interests, it is criticised as not giving value for money. SRC members are criticised for using the Union as a stepping stone for their own careers. All these comments have been made intermittently from the time the Union started, until 1999.



Above: Propaganda for a National Day of Action, 1997.

Right: Protest outside the Union Building, 1990s.

The Union can, however, point to an impressive number of achievements. It has provided many services for students, from magazines to multi-entertainment extravaganzas, and has protected students' interests. Many of its leaders have made a genuine effort to help students. Interestingly, probably not so much through Union influence as from general society values, student behaviour has improved considerably since the days of fireworks and smoke bombs at Commem: in graduation ceremonies in 1998, there was not one instance of any misbehaviour by students. And, while undertaking research for this book, one fact stood out: virtually every former student commented unasked that his or her student days had been enjoyable and rewarding, sometimes 'the best years of my life'. The Union has played its part in providing this atmosphere for generations of Tasmanian university students.



Some members of the Students' Representative Council 1998, a contrast to the much more formal photos of the 1930s. Back: Sally Aplin, Graeme Vines, Gilbert Astorga, Regan Drew, Wayne Palmer (Maintenance, pulled into the photo as he happened to be passing). Front: Matt Randall, Mat Hines, Sam Ling, Jen Fitzgerald, Dan Ralph. (Photograph taken by Fred Koolhof).

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Letter from Janet Pitty (McRae), 1 November 1998

Interviews with the following:

Catherine Alexander, Cynthia Alexander (Johnson), James Alexander, Gilbert Astorga, Ted Barrett, Neal Blewett, Sir Victor and Lady Burley (Lord), Edward Butler, Anna Campbell, Kate Campbell (Corven), Hugh Campbell, Reg Cane, Patrick Carnuccio, R.B. 'Chick' Chen, Graham Clements, Dick Clive, Maida Coaldrake (Williams), Bruce Cole, Bob Cotgrove, Peter Cranswick, Marcus Crisp, Peggy Crisp (Seager), John Cruickshank, David Dilger, Regan Drew, Ann Elias (Lilley), Nick Evers, Vic Fitze, Diana Gee, Peter Hall, Jim and Lloyd Harris, Jeff Hockley, Shirley Hofto (Jackson), Karen Howard-Henderson, Ken Hudspeth, Graeme Ingles, Ann Jennings, Jonathan Jones, Lady Knight, Jim Laver, Amanda Lohrey (Howard), Cecily McKinley, Beth McLeod (Tribolet), Kath McNicol, Keith Mackriell, Tony Manley, Christina Marquis (O'Farrell), Max Martin, David and Christobel Mattingley (Shepley), John May, Charles Miller, Pat Neasey (Killalea), Doug Padgham, Deidre Parker, Bruce Paterson, Judy Payne, Leeanne Prince (Hughes), Jeff Ransley, Peter Reardon, Helen Reeves (Cooper), Jean Reid (Montgomery), Henry Reynolds, Doug Saul, Jeff Scrivener, Ralph Southorn, Derek Turnbull, Keith 'Johnny' Walker, Les and Fay Wallace (Pearsall), Arthur Watchorn, Lindsay Whitham, John and Louise White, Charlotte Wilmot (Dennis), Brian Wilson, Rodney and Christine Wood.

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Logo: John May, Karen Howard-Henderson, Deidre Parker

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Sources of photos

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Index

Aadvark Society 55
 Abbot, Geoffrey 60
 Abetz, Eric 59, 65
 Activities Council 79, 87
 Adam-Smith, Mick 38
 Adams, Charles 5
 Aikido 84, 85
 Alexander, Eugene 59
 Alexander, James 38, 44, 50
 Allen, Simon 60
 Amos, Julian 51, 53
 Anderson, D.L. 14
 Anstey, Peter 22
 Apathy, student 8, 21, 33, 42, 52, 80, 85–6, 89
 Aplin, Sally 90
 Archer, Cecil 'Shrimp' 8
 Archer, Keith 6, 8
 Archery 61
 Art School 64, 79, 80, 88
 Arts students 25, 58, 76, 88
 Ascui, Francisco 83
 Astorga, Gilbert 79, 81, 90
 Atherton, Ken 49
 Athletics 4, 6, 13, 20
 Aulich, Chris 49, 60
 Ault, Lilian 6

Badminton 25, 69
 Baird, Roger 49
 Baker, Marjorie 6
 Banks, Tom 45
 Bar, Union 55, 57–8, 68, 70, 72, 73, 88
 Barclay, David 10, 13
 Barnard, Philip 50
 Barnes, Robin 49
 Barnett, Guy 63
 Barrett, Canon 10
 Barrett, Ted 25
 Basketball, men's 54
 Basketball, women's, 6, 12, 13, 17, 49
 Bastyan, Sir Edric 41
 Bath, Lloyd 19
 Batt, Jean 6

Baxter, Vicki 45, 50
 Beams, Jo 39, 40
 Beams, Nick 41, 45
 Beedham, Beatrice 3
 Ben Joned, Salleh 47
 Benjamin, Geoff 23
 Benjamin, Robin 25
 Bennett, Merriloy 44
 Better Management Team 68
 Black, Chris 50
 Blewett, Neal 25
 Bloomfield, Peter 38
 Board of Management 63, 81
 Bookshops 23, 34, 40, 57, 67
 Bottriell, Mary 19
 Bourjau, Mark 78
 Bowtell, Bill 52, 58
 Bretherton, Di 32
 Briers, Michael 78
 Briggs, Alan 10
 Briggs, Graeme 63
 Brown, Dennis 48
 Brown, Lindsay 52, 54, 57
 Brown, Ray and Martin 60
 Brownell, Colin 9
 Buckland, A. 78
 Burke, Geoff 'Daffy' 28
 Burn, Alan and Donald 3
 Burnett, Ray 50
 Burns, Phyllis 38
 Burley, Victor 9
 Bush Turkey (band) 54
 Bushby, John 9, 10, 12
 Butler, Charles 3, 4

Cactus 10, 12
 Calver, Chris 50
 Calvert, A. 37
 Calvert, Charles 38
 Cameron, Margaret 32
 Campbell, Anna 86
 Canoe polo 84, 85
 Caro, Prof. 77
 Carswell, Chris 63
 Carter, Angela 50
 Cerny, Richard 49

Chappell, Duncan 28
 Charles, Prince 58
 Chariot race, 43, 61, 71, 83, 87
 Chatchai, George 25
 Chen, R.B. 'Chick' 19, 20
 Chess club 25
 Child care 40, 59, 68
 Christ College 10, 18, 26, 33, 75
 Christian Union 2, 7, 57
 Claessens, Anthony 78
 Clark, John 25
 Clark, Karen 50
 Classics students 84
 Clements, Graham 25, 26
 Clemes, Alfred 3
 Clemes, Ruth 9
 Clemons, Roger 60
 Clinical School 79, 80
 Clubs and Societies Council 25, 40, 69, 79
 Cold Chisel 65, 68, 70
 Cole, Bruce 25
 Coleman, 'Wedges' 19, 20
 Collins, Garry 60
 COMEC 74
 Commemoration 4, 7, 10, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 26, 35, 45, 56, 61, 90
 parade/procession 14, 16, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36, 46
 and see Students' Day
 Commerce students 7, 25, 74
 Common rooms 4, 8, 11, 18, 23
 Connor, Brian 44
 Connor, Kevin 60
 Conrad, Peter 38
 Conservatorium of Music 64, 80
 Cook, Kelly 87
 Costello, Julie 38
 Cotgrove, Bob 58, 60, 63, 69
 Cossum, Paul 60
 Courtney-Pratt, Joan 9
 Cowling, C. 10
 Cowling, Clare 45, 50
 Cox, Lyn 44
 Cricket 4, 60, 69
 Crisp, Alan 3, 4
 Crisp, J.M. 10, 14
 Crisp, M.P. 10, 14

- Crisp, Peter 8
 Crisp, Terence 8
 Crisp, Thomas 3
 Crocker, Ray 49
 Crosthwaite, Bob 39
 Cruikshank, J.H.R. 2
 Cummings, John-Paul II 87
- Davies, Richard 49
 Davis, Edna 8
 Davis, Winnie 6
 Dayan, M. 37
 Dean, Jack 23
 Dean, Judy 26
 Debating, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 25
 Demonstrations, *see* Protests and Demonstrations
 Denholm, Bernard 19
 Denholm, Michael 45
 Dennis, Charlotte 9
 Diprose, Louis 44
 Discussion Club 18
 Disorientation Week 81
 Domain site 1, 27, 28
 Donaldson, John 81
 Donnelly, Bernard 8
 Donovan, Bill 49
 Dowd, Bil 38
 Downie, Max 10
 Dowse, Bruce 31
 Drama 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 *and see* Old Nick
 Dransfield, Adrian 87
 Drew, Regan 90
 Dunbabin, Prof. 3, 8, 15
 Dunbabin, Sarah 3
 Dwyer, M. 17
- Eccleston, Richard 82
 Economics students 74
 Edwards, Grey 10
 Edwards, John 5
 Edwards, Paul 8, 10
 Elliot, Prof. 18
 Elliott, Cecily 32
 Engineering students 7, 17, 25, 30, 37, 56, 87
 England, Brian 49
- Evers, Nick 28, 29
 Ewing, Terry 59
 Ewins, Rory 78
- Fabinyi, Jerry 44
 Fagan, Roy 8, 10
 Farquhar, Greg 50
 Fickler, Heinz 49
 Fisher, Ron 22
 Fitz, John 49
 Fitze, Vic 19
 Fitzgerald, Jen 90
 FitzGerald, Stephen 32
 Flanagan, Richard 66, 67, 68
 Flinn, Joanne 79
 Flynn, Prof. and Errol 8
 Foot, Bev 17
 Football, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 25, 49, 69
 Ford, Frederick 5
 Forest, Jane 69
 Foster, Noel 21, 26
 Franks, Diane 50
 Freeburgh, H. 5
 Freeman, Sue 50
- Gamble, Linda 50
 Gannon, D. 37
 Gee, Don 9, 10
 Gee, Helen 44
 Gee, J. 37
 Geeves, Lance 8
 Geology students 56
 Giason, Aaron 87
 Giblin, Ted 9
 Gibson, Colin 5
 Gill, Rob 87
 Given, Amanda 70
 Graduation ceremonies 90
 and see Commemoration
 Graham, John 13
 Grant, Gordon 52
 Graske, Julie 79
 Gray, Robin 64
 Green, Jack 9, 14
 Green, Peter 11
 Griffiths, Megan 12
- Goddard, June 12
 Goodluck, Bruce 72
- Hall, Peter 34
 Hamilton, Marguerite 50
 Hand, Rob 74
 Hannon, Grant 38
 Hansen, Simon 87
 Harris, Lloyd 19
 Harrison, Pat 50
 Hartigan, Sue 45, 50
 Haslope, Lance 23
 Hatsell, Jan 32
 Hawkes, Rebecca 72
 Hayes, Rod 49
 Henry, E.R. 6
 Henty, David 44
 High School of Hobart Town 1
 Hills, M. 63
 Hills, Malcolm 27
 Hines, Mat 90
 Hirst, Simon 38
 Hockey, men's 6, 23, 69
 Hockey, women's 5, 6, 13, 25, 69
 Hocking, Tony 63
 Hodgman, Peter 72
 Hodgson, George 10, 12
 Hohman, Will 87
 Honey, John 48
 Hope, Sue 44
 Hood, Geoffrey 19
 Hood, J. McG. 14
 Hood, John 5
 Hortle, Michael 60
 Howroyd, Rick 45
 Hughes, Leeanne 50
 Hughes, Stephen 3
 Hunt, A.B. 14
 Hyndman, Jean 45
 Hytten Hall 33, 36, 77
- Inglis, Ian 21
 In-line skating 84, 85
 International Relations Club 13
 Inter-varsity 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 36, 37, 54, 69, 87

Iron Man/Virgin competitions 43, 61, 74
Isaks, Anda 50

Jackson, Kate 79
Jacques, Gordon 25
Jak, Robert 78
James, H. 14
Jane Franklin Hall 26, 46
Jeffrey, Eric 3
Jennings, Roger 19
Jessup, R. 37
Jillett, Cecil 13
Jillett, Phyllis 6
John Fisher College 33
Johns, Colin 23
Johnson, Alban 60
Johnson, Cynthia 17, 18, 19
Johnson, Eric 3, 4
Jones, Alan 60
Jones, Isobel and Elinor 87
Jones, Jonathan 74, 78, 81, 86, 87
Jones, Josh 87
Judo 78

Kemp, Barbara 45, 50
Kennedy, Bob 9
Kerin, Michael 49
Kerr, Duncan 45, 53
King, Brian 32
King, Prof. 8, 15
Kinsella, Nick 87
Klug, J.E. 14
Knight, Allan 6
Knight, Rhett 50
Kube, Tony 87
Kulakauskas, Eric 49

Labor Club/students 20, 79, 85
Lachowicz, John 50
Lane, Col 27
Larkman, Clare 81
Laver, Jim 49
Law students 2, 7, 19, 25, 51, 57, 79
Legro, H. 63
Lewis, Harry 16
Lewis, Matthew 79

Lewis, Muriel 6, 8
Liberal Club 20, 64
Library, 2, 12, 28, 33
Lillas, Frank 19
Ling, Sam 90
Literary Society 2, 6, 7
Little, Geoff 50
Llewellyn, Anthony 79
Lloyd, Jo 32
Logo, Union vi
Lohberger, Christian 87
Lomax, Jack 39, 45
Lord, Loyal 12
Lord, Ron 8
Lovett, Gilbert 3
Luck, Lance 10

McAulay, Prof. 3, 15
McCaffery, Ged 87
McCann, Marita 50
MacClaine, Shirley 17
McCulloch, Luke 79
McDonald, Anne 38
McDougall, Archibald 5
Mace, Justin 87
McGrath, J.F. 10, 14
McGrath, J.P. 10
Mackay, Alec and James 3
McKay, Peter 72
MacKay, Sue 52
McKinnon, Neil 49
Mackriell, Keith 25
McMahon, Billy 40
McMahon, Mary 3
McNicol, Don 80
McPhee, Gerard 49
McRae, Janet 21
McRae, Malcolm 21
McShane, John 87
Maddock, Mick 38
Manley, Tony 37, 38
Manning, Jill 32
Manson, Peter 22
Martial arts 69, 78, 84, 85
Martin, Max 23
Mattingley, Brian 10

May, John 9, 10, 12
Mayne, Jim 50
Medieval warfare 84
Mercury 15, 28, 35
Meredith, Steven 45, 50
Meston, Mary 19
Mickey Mouse Club 40
Miller, Beryl 8
Miller, Catherine 79, 81
Miller, Charles 19
Miller, Margie 45, 50
Milne, Christine 45
Mitchell, F.C. 14
Mitchell, Jo 76
Mixed Shop 34, 40
Mock Commem 7, 10, 14, 15
Moller, Carl 79
Moore, Bev 38
Morris, B.J.B. 14
Morris, John 25
Morrison, Sue 63
Mrozowski, Irena 47
Muggeridge, Daniel 79
Mulcahy, Richard 57
Mullen, J.E. 14
Munday, Michael 57-8, 59
Murray Committee 29

National student union 11, 16, 20, 25, 37, 60, 68, 85
National Union of Australian University Students
(NUAUS) 11, 16, 20, 25, 37, 60
Nettleford, Bob 19
Newbon, Craig 78
Newcombe, Ken 44
Newman, Jenny 79
Nicholls, Herbert 13, 14
Nightingale, Prue 44
Norman, Michael 60

Oakes, Lorraine 50
Oakley, 'Spud' 49
O'Farrell, Christina 29
Ogilvie, Eric 16
O'Halloran, John 50
Old Nick Co. 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 34, 38, 45, 50, 59
Optical Annexe 17

- Orientation Week 23, 69, 81
 Orienteering 69
 Orr, Prof. 28, 29, 32, 37
 Overton, Gay 32
 Overton, Wendy 38
- Padgham, Doug 21, 24
 Page, Adye 8
 Page, C.A.S. 6
 Palmer, Andrew 78
 Palmer, Wayne 90
 Parsons, Matthew 79
 Parsons, Neville 23
 Paterson, Bruce 81, 83, 86
 Paull, I. 14
 Payne, Ben 87
 Pearce, Rosemary 32
 Pearsall, Fay 25
 Pedley, Sally 32
 Pemberton, Stella 6
 Pentecost, Andrea 50
 Petterd, Liesl 79
 Phillips, Rags 38
 Phillips, Sue 32
 Physics students 2, 3, 17, 56
 Pillinger, Alison 48
 Pimp (Scarlet Pimpernel) 65, 76
 Pitman, Prof. 15
 Planking races 61, 74
Platypus 2, 4, 5, 8, 10
 Political clubs 20
 Political Science students 25
 Poulson, Bruce 29
 Power, Janice 32
 Pranks, student 4, 7, 10, 14, 15, 24, 26, 31, 35, 36, 43, 46
 Protests and demonstrations 27, 28, 34, 36, 39–40, 41–3, 51–2, 53, 60, 64–6, 84, 88, 89
 Pullar, Susan 81
- Radburn, Mike and Conor 87
 Radford, Rodney 49
 Radical Society 29
 Rahn, Gavin and Hamish 87
 Ralph, Dan 90
 Ram, Pravin 79
- Ramsay, Greg 87
 Randall, Matt 90
 Rawlings, Fred 50
 Rayner, Charles 3, 4
 Reading, Geoffrey 10, 12, 13, 16
 Reardon, Peter 48, 50
 Rees, Bevan 38
 Rees, Gwynneth 32
 Refectory 34, 40, 44, 45, 52, 55, 59, 68, 76
 Registrar 2, 3
 Reid, Jim 81
 Reinhart, Renate 47
 Religious societies 2, 7, 13, 57
 Renney, John 22
 Resistance (Socialist group) 68
 Revues 19, 22, 24, 31
 and see Mock Commem and Old Nick
 Reynolds, Henry 28
 Rich, Heather 79
 Richardson, Glen and Philip 60
 Richmond, Barbara 21
 Rifle shooting 10, 13
 Road through campus, protests against 42–3, 60
 Roberts, Andrew 87
 Rockliff, Donald 13
 Rosevear, Alan 79
 Rosevear, Craig 78
 Round, Graham 50
 Rouse, Linda 50
 Rowing 5, 6, 10, 13, 37, 69, 78
 Royal Commission 27
 Rozensteins, Austrā 44
 Rugby 10, 13, 14, 25, 62, 87
 Ryan, Phil 54, 56
- Saltmarsh, Ivan 38
 Sampson, Richard 78
 Sandy Bay, site 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 33
 Saunders, Jill 50
 Sayers, Frank 6
 Scavenger Hunt 36, 43, 61, 72–3, 82, 83, 87
 Schellenberg, O. 37
 Schier, Val 45
 Schwanke, Claudia 50
 Science students 17, 20
 Scott, Bruce 20
- Scott, Kelvin 40, 45
 Scott, Rod 44
 Seager, Pat 19
 Seares, Sidney 13
 Shatwell, K.O. 14
 Shatwell, Prof. 15
 Shelley, Bill 63, 68
 Sherrey, Ian 60
 Sherry, Nick 59
Siglo 83
 Simeon, Duncan 87
 Simmons, Geoffrey 19
 Simpson, Tom 16, 19
 Skiing 13
 Skinner, Jo 79
 Smith, Betty 17
 Smith, Brian 8
 Smith, Inga 17
 Smith, Robert 40, 50
 Smith, Val 29
 Snodgrass, Don and Chris 87
 Snowboarding 86
 Soccer 25
 Societies Council, *see* Clubs and Societies Council
 Sorell, Geoff 8
 Sound Lounge 54, 67
 Sowter, Phil 49
 Sport, 1, 2, 62, 86, 87
 and see individual sports
 Sports Council 51, 58, 69, 79
 St Hill, Felix 12
 St Leger, Leonore 19
 Stanley Burbury Building/Theatre 46, 64
 Stanley, Nigel 49
 Stojkovic, Marte 44
 Stops, Tim 63
 Stops, W.J.T. 15
 Student Christian Movement 13
 Student magazines, *see* *Platypus*, *Cactus*, *Togatus*, *Siglo*
 Student Representative Council 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39–40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 51–3, 54, 56–8, 59, 60, 63, 67–8, 79, 81, 86, 89, 90
 Student radicalism 34 *and see* Protests

Student services 18, 23, 25, 34, 40, 51, 53, 55, 58,
 59, 63, 64, 65, 67–8, 80, 82, 87, 88, 89, 90
 Student teachers 25, 64
 Students, *see* under faculties
 Asian 25, 76
 ex-servicemen 20, 21, 22, 25
 postgraduate 79, 82
 Students Association (northern) 85
 Students' Day 36, 43, 46, 75
 and see Commem
 Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) 41
 Stump, Mark 8
 Surveying students 87

 Tanner, Ian 23
 Tapping, Pierre 8, 13
 Tarrant, John 50
 Tasmania University Boat Club 37, 78
 and see Rowing
 Tasmania University Choral Society 36
 Tasmania University Rugby Union
 Football Club 87, *and see* Rugby
 Tasmanian College of Advanced Education 64
 Taylor, B. 78
 Taylor, Dick 21
 Taylor, Doreen 6
 Taylor, John 25
 Taylor, Prof. 13, 15, 18
 Teachers' College 6, 9, 18
 Technical College 27
 Tennis 2, 4, 6, 8, 13
 Tertiary fees 68, 84
 Thollar, R. 10
 Thollar, Simon 63
 Thompson, Graeme 19
 Thompson, Janet 50
 Thomson, D. 37
 Thorne, Tim 38
 Thurley, Rodney 38
 Thurstans, Shaun 79
 Tillema, Mendel 40
Togatus 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31,
 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 45, 47, 51, 53, 56, 58, 59,
 60, 61, 63, 65, 67, 68, 72, 77, 78, 80, 82–3, 85
 Toubert, Charles 68
 Traynor, David 63

Tsia, Richard 87
 Tuck, Don 23
 Tudor, Graham 19
 Turnbull, Derek 79, 85
 Turner, Dennis 23

 Underpass, 77
 Union Building 22, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 41, 42, 64,
 80, 89
 Union committee 2, 5, 8
 Union elections 8, 18, 33, 52, 54, 56–7, 67, 68, 70,
 80, 82, 85–6
 Union fees and membership 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 53–4,
 56, 65, 66, 68
 Union finances 6, 8, 18, 27, 40, 51, 52, 53, 58, 59,
 65, 68
 Union logo vi
 Union meetings 16, 20, 23, 25, 33, 45, 52, 53, 54,
 59, 60, 67, 85
 United Tasmania Group 42
 University Council 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 24, 27,
 28, 29, 38
 University of Tasmania Football Club 49
 Unwin, P.T. 14
 Urquhart, Donald 5

 Vanderaa, Simon 79
 Vanderberg, John 38
 Vernon, Chris 87
 Verrall, Will 10
 Vietnam War 39, 41–2, 48
 Voluntary student unionism 66, 84, 88–9

 Wadsley, Michael 49
 Wakefield, Gavin 78
 Walker, Caroline 3
 Walker, Keith 'Johnny' 22
 Walker, Michael 49
 Walking clubs 25
 Wallace, Les 25
 Walters, Stewart 78
 Ward, Trevor 49
 Warlow-Davies, Eric 8
 Warn, Patti 44
 Warner, Emily 79
 Warr, Sandi 79

Watchorn, Arthur 9, 16
 Waters, Derek 23
 Waterhouse, John 23
 Watson, Geoff 22
 Weaver, Prof. 63
 Wendell-Smith, Prof. 63
 Wenn, Maurice 49
 Wessing, Helen 45
 White, John 38, 40, 44, 48
 White water rafting 84
 Whyte, T. 37
 Wiggins, Rae 52
 Wilding, Simon 87
 Williams, Buck 50
 Williams, Maida 17
 Williams, Prof. 3
 Wilson, Andrew 63, 65
 Wilson, Brian, 21, 23
 Wilson, Gladys 38
 Wilson, John 19
 Women students 1, 2, 3, 11, 18, 26, 41, 47, 52, 68,
 69, 79, 80, 82
 Women's Liberation 41
 Wood, Paul 10
 Wood, Rodney 22
 Woods, Macdonell 13
 Wooley, Charles 50
 Wooton, Leon 60
 World War 1, 5
 World War 2, 17–20
 Wright, Harold 5
 Wright, Hedley 3
 Wright, Margret 31

 Young, G. 37

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Right: Charles Toubert, president 1986, with the winner of the chariot race.

Back cover left: Chariot race, 1989.

Back cover right: Save the Arts Faculty rally, 1990.



The Tasmania University Union was founded in 1899, to encourage sport and social life among students. Over the next century it expanded its activities to include sponsoring a range of sporting and cultural groups, and providing student services such as the Refectory, housing, a bar, counselling, a shop and health services. It has put the students' point of view to the university authorities and the government, organised student protests and more informal activities such as processions, chariot races, scavenger hunts and Iron Man competitions. In short, it has tried to provide students with all possible services and assistance. This book shows to what extent it has succeeded in its first century of existence.

Alison Alexander, a well-known Tasmanian historian, has strong links with the Union herself. A student at the University of Tasmania for 13 years, she was a member of the SRC (1970), as were her husband (1966) and daughter (1998), not to mention her mother-in-law, father-in-law and grandfather-in-law.

